Supreme Court ruling on incinerator hit, hailed

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'I pray for some more good times together'

AN American missionary couple held hostage for nine months in the jungles of Basilan pray to be reunited with loved ones but said they will not be freed unless their Abu Sayyaf captors are paid ransom.

"We feel that we really need to get out of here," said a letter from missionary Gracia Burnham to her sister Mary

IPRAY/A12

Gloria stands by her man at finance

'All NGOs use friendly connections with donors'

By Dona Pazzibugan, Vincent Cabreza and Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo stood by Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho amid reports that he was on the way out because he allegedly conspired with his sister to allow a nongovernment organization to earn P1.4 billion from the sale of government bonds.

"He (Camacho) is staying," Ms Macapagal said yesterday in a chance interview.

It was the Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO) chaired by Socorro "Marissa" Camacho-Reyes, a sister of the finance secretary, which conceptualized the issuance of P35 billion in zero-coupon bonds.

Zero-coupon bonds are debt papers that pay no interest at a regular interval. They are issued at a big discount from their face value, the amount to be paid back upon the bonds' maturity. Thus, the government got P10.169 billion for the P35 billion in bonds that it sold to CODE-NGO. The government will pay P35 billion upon maturity of the bonds in 10 years.

Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman defended (CODE-NGO) for winning the auction of the bonds, saying that all NGOs use "friendly connections" to get financing from local and international donors.

CODE-NGO tapped Rizal Commer-

GLORIA/A14

NOT HIDDEN DRAGONS ERIK ARAZAS

In preparation for the advent of the lunar Chinese New Year ushering in the Year of the Horse next week, the Golden Lion and Dragon Dance Group rehearse their dance on Wednesday at the Wan Tong Chinese Temple in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Desierto, Moreno hail revival of graft cases

By Michael Lim Ubac and Christine Avendaño

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto yesterday welcomed the revival of the 62 dismissed tax credit scam cases, saying it would lead to the collapse of the second impeachment complaint filed against him with the House of Representatives.

"It's a vindication of the position of the Office of the Ombudsman that the dismissal of the cases was improper," said Desierto. "We were correct from the very start that the cases should not have been dismissed."

But two of his detractors also described the anti-graft court's revival of the cases as a "vindication" for those who had charged Desierto with deliberately bungling and delaying the cases in a second impeachment case against him.

Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno congratulated the anti-graft court for its "judicial bravery."

Moreno and Ernesto Francisco Jr., the lawyer who filed the first impeachment complaint against Desierto, said the charges filed against Desierto in the second impeachment complaint were confirmed by the Sandigan's special 4th division's revival of the graft cases against finance officials and oil executives.

DESIERTO/A14

Did Desierto fudge facts on tax scam?

By John Nery

A REVIEW of the documents Ombudsman Aniano Desierto presented during a three-hour briefing for the INQUIRER last week—including his contention that the Special Presidential Task Force 156 investigating the scam had merely "slept on it"—has raised more questions than answers.

At the very least, the Ombudsman presented a chronology of the case that is at odds with the timeline of the tax credit scam cases as this newspaper has pieced it, using documents and statements from the task force, the Sandiganbayan, former and current government officials, and Desierto's office itself.

Reached for comment, the

DID/A14

GMA defers signing of TOR 'to make sure it's correct'

By Carlito Pablo, Christine Herrera and Gerald G. Lacuarta

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said she would defer approval of the terms of reference (TOR) governing the RP-US Balikatan 02-1 in order to "refine it, make sure that it is correct."

According to a source at the Palace, the Philippines and the United States are in conflict over how to officially describe the relationship between the two military forces for the duration of the exercise.

"The Philippines wants it stated that Filipino commanders will exercise 'authority' over the Americans because it is an encompassing word denoting the power to require and expect obedience," said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "The US side wants the word 'command,' which is more limited in scope compared with 'authority.'"

The President told reporters that she would approve the TOR after the preparatory period of the controversial exercise. "The preparatory period will bring out some of the details that have to be done," she said. "We will reevaluate and then we will proceed."

Her spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the preparatory period would end on Feb. 15.

Despite the supposed row between the two countries, Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona is now prepared to support the Balikatan and will show up at the Senate hearing scheduled today to do so.

"All my reservations about the joint military exercise have been addressed," Guingona said. "Now I have a go signal from the President to present the terms of reference before the Senate."

But opposition to the Balikatan yesterday showed no sign of abating, with

GMA/A12

'Ukay-ukay:' There goes rags to riches

MASKI BASAHAN YAN, MILYONES ANG KITA!

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau
and Dona Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered a crackdown on stores selling imported used clothes, as she brushed off a possible backlash

UKAY-UKAY/A14

Doctor, businesswoman rescued; Korean, pal seized

By the PDI Mindanao Bureau and PDI Central Luzon Desk

TWO rescued, two others kidnapped.

Police yesterday said they had rescued a woman doctor and a businesswoman from their abductors amid another wave of kidnappings in the country.

The rescue of Dr. Rosemarie Agustin in Maguindanao and businesswoman Amelita Yang Cesar in Angeles City, however, was quickly overshadowed by the kidnapping of a Korean and his business partner in South Cotabato.

Col. Pedro Magsino, commander of the Army's 601st Infantry Brigade, said Jae Keon-yoon and Carlos Belonio were seized by armed men about 11

DOCTOR/A12

CHARLIE SENASE/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

THE DOCTOR, kidnap victim Rosemarie Agustin, is out of captivity.

US soldiers mingle with natives, draw curious Zambo crowds

THREE American soldiers in civilian clothes drew curious crowds when they walked into the most popular shopping mall in Zamboanga City's commercial center on Tuesday to hunt for toothbrushes and other personal items.

US soldiers are breaking out of their self-imposed confines to mingle with residents of the city before the start of the Balikatan exercise.

Some have gone to malls to shop for toiletries, some to local restaurants to sample local delicacies. Others have gone jogging, chased by squealing urchins.

"This will give our American friends a chance to know what are the sensitivities of our people," Army spokesperson, Lt. Col. Danilo Servando, said.

Some 240 American troops have arrived in the city. Largely because of security concerns, they are billeted in heavily guarded Philippine military camps and have had limited contact with local folk.

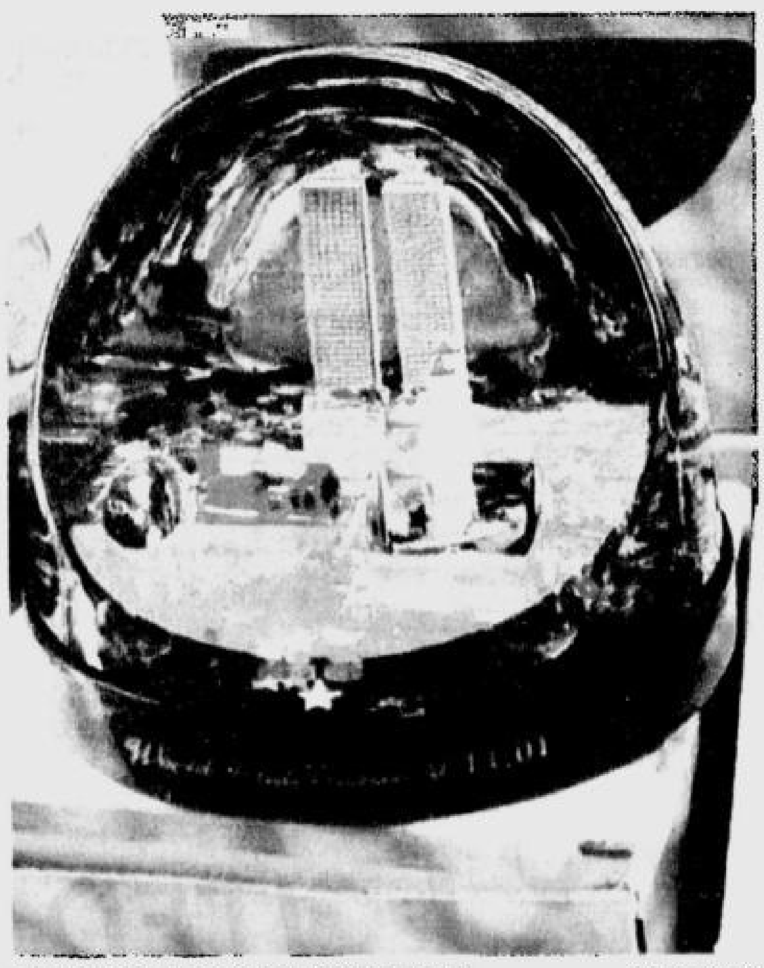
However, the security appears to be easing.

At the headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Southern Command, groups of US troopers jogged around the sprawling camp to keep themselves in shape.

Children of Filipino soldiers living in the camp ran after them, tugging at their shorts.

In another part of the camp, a young US Army lieutenant strode into a Filipino eatery with two other

US/A12



WHY US TROOPS ARE HERE GETTY IMAGES

At Ground Zero in New York, where the World Trade Center once stood proud and tallest before 9/11, vendors sell souvenirs from hats to T-shirts to paperweights.

Second FRONT PAGE

ANG BAHO NG ISSUE NA YAN!

Incinerator ruling hit, hailed

By Juliet L. Javellana

THE RECENT Supreme Court ruling declaring the ban on waste incinerators as "not absolute" drew both praise and condemnation at the House of Representatives yesterday.

In a hearing of the House committee on ecology, an environmental group assailed the high court's decision.

"The Supreme Court, I'm afraid, did not do its homework when it said there is no absolute ban on incinerators," said Ester Perez de Tagle of the Concerned Citizens against Pollution at the committee hearing.

"The fact is, all incinerators emit pollution," Tagle said.

The ecology committee, chaired by Misamis Oriental Rep. Augusto Baculio, was deliberating on two bills seeking to allow the use of incinerators to dispose of waste and a bill seeking to privatize the collection and disposal of garbage.

Tagle said the US Supreme Court on May 2, 1994 ruled that the ash generated from municipal waste that was burned in incinerators was hazardous waste.

"So we are playing Russian roulette with the people's health when we allow incinerators," she said.

On the other hand, Caloocan City Rep. Edgar Erice, author of House Bill 3828, which seeks to allow the use of incinerators, welcomed the high court's decision.

"This is a positive development that will allow us to find a permanent solution to the garbage problem," Erice said.

Ilocos Sur Rep. Eric Singson is the other proponent of the limited use of incinerators through House Bill 3886.

But Baculio and Bukidnon Rep. Nereus Acosta said the high court ruling has not laid the issue of incinerators to rest.

Baculio admitted that the SC cited a "small window" through which the use of incinerators could be allowed, but there is the view, held especially by non-governmental organizations, that the ban is total.

"Legally, there is still that issue that we want to clarify," Baculio said.

Acosta said he was surprised by the high court ruling because it runs counter to Section 20 of the Clean Air Act which defines incineration as the "burning of municipal, bio-medical and hazardous wastes which process emits poisonous and toxic fumes."

The SC cited the same section, but ruled that the ban was only on incineration processes that emit poisonous and toxic fumes.

"Is Section 20 subject to interpretation? But the spirit of the law is that there is a ban on the direct burning of solid waste," Acosta said.

Find Arlyn —Magsaysay

By Rocky Nazareno

SENATE defense committee chair Ramon Magsaysay Jr. yesterday called on the Armed Forces, Philippine National Police and National Bureau of Investigation to immediately "find and locate missing journalist Arlyn dela Cruz," who is acknowledged to have extensive knowledge and connection with the Al-Qaida-associated Abu Sayyaf.

In a press statement, Magsaysay expressed alarm over the safety of Dela Cruz, who was reported missing since Jan. 19 while covering the RP-US military exercises in Basilan.

According to Magsaysay, her disappearance has "stirred various speculations, including ransom payoff rip-off which allegedly earned her the ire of Abu Sayyaf leader Abu Sabaya.

Slow down, Erap lawyers ask court

By Volt Contreras

BOTH Joseph Estrada's lawyers and his doctor experienced yesterday just how firm the recently formed special Sandiganbayan court could be in handling his cases.

The court has insisted on gradually accelerating the pace of the trial by holding thrice-weekly hearings beginning next week, and later picking up more speed by holding daily sessions.

This prompted defense counsel Jose Flaminiano to warn the court the additional workload might force them to "raise the white flag and withdraw" as lawyers of the jailed ex-president.

At the same hearing, Dr. Larry Hocson, Estrada's personal physician, was also put on the spot for repeatedly requesting the transfer of Estrada's co-accused son, Jinggoy, to the Makati Medical Center for a recurring heart problem.

Justice Edilberto Sandoval asked why Jinggoy has been rushed to the MMC four times since being detained, when the Estradas are being held in the presidential suite of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center.

Hocson explained that the VMMC does not have all the equipment needed to closely monitor Jinggoy's condition.

The court then ordered Hocson, a general surgeon, to submit within 24 hours his evaluation of Jinggoy's condition, including his recommendations.

The young Estrada was last rushed to the MMC on Feb. 1, where he remains under observation but is in "stable" condition, according to Hocson.

As to the trial schedule, Estrada's lawyers objected when Sandoval said the court will hold "daily hearings after about a month."

Defense lawyer Cleofe Verzola said Estrada "might lose all his lawyers" under that kind of arrangement considering the other cases they have to attend to in other courts.

Before Sandoval spoke of having daily hearings and provoked the objections, the court's presiding chair Justice Minita Nazario said the plunder trial will be held "three times a week about a week from now."

Nazario reminded Estrada's lawyers that "this was our understanding" reached in an executive session during the Jan. 28 hearing.

Nazario noted that when the Estrada plunder case was being heard by the Third Division last year, the schedule was already thrice a week and this was only reduced to twice a week approaching the Christmas season.

The rest of the hearing saw the direct examination of the fifth prosecution witness, Rizaldy Capulong, an assistant vice president of the Social Security System.

Capulong was mainly asked to verify voluminous documents pertaining to the SSS' purchase of Belle Corp. shares in October 1999, particularly the transactions on Oct. 21.

The plunder charge accuses Estrada of pocketing P189.7 million in commissions from the sale of Belle shares both to the SSS and the Government Service Insurance System..

In a related development, the Supreme Court has junked the petition filed by Estrada's lawyers seeking the inhibition from the plunder case of Sandiganbayan Third Division chair Anacleto Badoy Jr.

In a one-page resolution, the SC said the petition was moot.

"The court resolved to dismiss the instant petition for having become moot and academic in view of the creation of a special division to try the plunder case and such other related cases against petitioners," said the SC resolution signed by Clerk of Court Luzviminda Puno.

Badoy had also been ordered to go on "indefinite leave" by the high court after he experienced health problems and began exhibiting unusual behavior.

The high court did not rule on the petition concerning the allegedly improper conduct of Badoy when he used an ambulance to go to a TV station to be interviewed on Nov. 29, 2001. ***With Michael Lim Ubac***

Barbers wants customs chief fired now

By Rocky Nazareno

SEN. Robert Barbers yesterday called for the dismissal of Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva even though Malacañang has already announced that he would be replaced on March 30.

"(Villanueva) does not deserve to stay a minute longer in his post," Barbers charged in a privileged speech.

Villanueva will yield his post on March 31 but Barbers believes Villanueva, whom he accused of various irregularities, should be sacked immediately.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday praised Villanueva, who was unaware that she had already chosen his replacement, for doing a "good job."

But she said he would not be automatically appointed to another post.

The Bureau of Customs celebrated its centennial anniversary at the Malacañang Ceremonial Hall yesterday.

"Titus did a good job and if there should be a need for his services in some other capacity (that is) not part of the career (service), then we can probably enlist him there," she said.

She said that although Villanueva had retired in September when he turned 66, she kept him on while she was still looking for a good replacement.

Malacañang announced his replacement, Finance Under-secretary Antonio Bernardo, on Tuesday.

Villanueva, a career official, was taken by surprise by the announcement. He only found out about it when reporters sought him for his reaction.

In Malacañang yesterday, Bernardo said he considered it his job to fulfill the President's promise to make the bureau a graft-free "showcase of government."

He presented his vision to a customs employee corps largely supportive of his predecessor.

He said that while the BoC had surpassed its target collection last year by P565 million despite the economic difficulties and political instability, it should not become complacent.

"You should not rest on your laurels. Last year's collection performance could have been better. There is much room for improvement," he said. ***With a report from Blanche S. Rivera and Dona Pazzibugan***

New solon takes oath with much fanfare

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

BEING the son of Jesus Is Lord founder apparently worked wonders for new party-list Rep. Emmanuel Joel Villanueva on his first day as a full-fledged member of the House.

Unlike other low-key party-list representatives, Villanueva made a splash on his oath-taking before Speaker Jose de Venecia at the opening of yesterday's session.

Accompanied by his father Bro. Eddie Villanueva and the rest of the family, the young Villanueva was applauded by a gallery of apparently JIL members.

The session was suspended for a few minutes as House members took turns shaking the hands of the representative of party-list Cibac (Citizens Battle Against Corruption).

The other new party-list member, Rep. Edgar Pablo of Apec which is a group of electric cooperatives, also took his oath yesterday.

Villanueva even had a press statement before he was sworn into office at the 4 p.m. session, where he immediately said he would endorse the impeachment complaint against Ombudsman Aniano Desierto.

"Of course, I will endorse it. In fact, I think that this day is very symbolic. The House is scheduled to vote on a charge of corruption which is the very same issue we vowed to stop during the campaign," Villanueva said in his statement.

His statement dubbed him as the "new Benjamin of the House" as he dislodged Camarines Sur Rep. Felix William Fuentebella as the youngest member of the House.

Villanueva, 26, and Pablo bring to 215 the House members, excluding convicted rapist Rep. Romeo Jalosjos who would soon be stricken out of the House roster.

In his statement, Villanueva said he was sworn into office seven months late because of the "misconception that Cibac is just an extension of the JIL Church."

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Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS
Pasay City

ANNOUNCEMENT

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has submitted to the Commission on Appointments (C.A.) for confirmation the *ad interim* appointments of the following:

Department of Foreign Affairs

Chief of Mission, Class II as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the State of Qatar - Wenceslao Jose O. Quirolgico

Chief of Mission, Class II - Pedro C. Santizo

Career Minister - Armando B. Fernandez, Jr., Jose D.R. Burgos

Foreign Service Officer, Class I - Gina A. Jamoralin, Eduardo Martin R. Meñez, Junever M. Mahilum - West

Foreign Service Officer, Class II - Daniel R. Espiritu, Marichu B. Mauro, Lourdes S. Tabamo, Patricia Ann V. Paez, Marcos S. Punsalang, Renato Pedro O. Villa, Ma. Agnes M. Cervantes

Armed Forces of the Philippines

To the grade of **Lieutenant General** - Narciso L. Abaya

To the grade of **Brigadier General** - Ronald E. Kempis

To the grade of **Colonel** - Gaudencio S. Pangilinan, Jr. (PA), Rolando B. Balabagno (PA), Harry T. Taladua (PA), Victor A. Felix (PA), Jose B. Vizcarra (PA), Florante B. Martinez (PA), Reynaldo V. Cabugon (PA), Herbert M. Aviñante (PA), Luis F. Almelor (PA), Romulo M. Bambao (PA), Noel A. Coballes (PA), Rafael C. Lleno (PA), Reynaldo O. Pambid (PA), Custodio C. Salosagcol (PA), Arnolfo B. Palmea (PA), Renato A. Sevilla (PA), Antonio I. Supnet (PA), Ernesto R. Aradanas (PA), Celso S. Silvestre Jr. (PA), Francisco M. Go (PA), Arturo B. Ortiz (PA), Rudival S. Cabading (PA), Romeo F. Fajardo (PA), Samuel L. Narbuada (PA), Adonis D. Cruz (MC), Leopoldo C. Deocaris (DS), Gualberto V. Malanog (CHS), Eprodito C. Magno (CHS), Antonieto B. Flosa (DS), William T.Yu (MC).

The public may submit any information, written report or sworn complaints or oppositions in thirty (30) copies on the above appointments to the CA Secretariat, 6th Floor, PNB Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, Metro Manila.

For the schedule of the public hearings, the CA Secretariat can be reached through telephone numbers 551-7532, 831-0893, 831-1824 and 834-2706.

06 February 2002.

ARTURO L. TIU
Secretary

Gloria revives ties with allies

By Dona Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has revived ties with former allies hoping to consolidate pro-administration political forces.

She met with Liberal Party officials and members in Malacañang yesterday and promised to consult with them regularly on various issues from now on.

It was just one of her series of meetings with political parties that helped bring her to power.

Batanes Rep. Florencio "Butch" Abad, LP president, welcomed the President's initiative to "renew our partnership."

He said Ms Macapagal has lately neglected the People Power Coalition, the political coalition born during the January 2001 People Power II.

"We told her that that coalition is important especially now that these are turbulent political times and she needs the support of her allies," Abad said in a chance interview.

Mangyan to lecture on RP fossils

THE NATIONAL Museum lecture 2002 series will feature on Saturday a unique collection of Philippine fossils called "ammonites" to be presented by Mangyan scholar and anthropologist Antoon Postma.

Formed during the Jurassic period which took place more than 150 million years ago, ammonites can be found all over the world but they have been discovered in the Philippines only in Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro.

Postma, who resides in Mansalay, will begin his lecture at 10 a.m.

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3 Cabinet members to meet airport workers on Naia 3

THREE Cabinet members are set to meet tomorrow airport workers, who stand to lose their jobs with the scheduled opening of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3, in a bid to find a "win-win" solution regarding their employment.

Transportation and Communications Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez said that he would be joined by Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas and Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon in meeting the workers to hear their complaints.

They will likewise be joined by executives of the German consortium Piatco, the build-operate-transfer contractor of the billion-peso terminal of the Naia.

"We would find out if the contractors would be willing to waive some of their privileges under the agreement so that the problems of the airport workers regarding their employment and livelihood would be addressed," Alvarez said in a statement.

The Cabinet members and the Piatco executives are scheduled to meet the leaders of the Philippine Airlines Employees Association, the Miascor union and a Pampanga non-government organization batting for the development of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport.

Alex Barrientos, president of Palea, said that while nothing concrete has yet to be achieved with their ongoing talks with Alvarez, the scheduled dialogue with the secretaries and the executives would be instrumental in putting forward their concerns.

"We hope that the dialogue would finally clear the air between the two groups," Alvarez said. ***Norman Bordadora***

IV scholars conference set Saturday

WHAT do film director Laurice Guillen, Executive Secretary Bert Romulo, CCP president Nestor Jardin, and Smokey Mountain parish priest Fr. Beltran have in common?

They are all IVs or scholars of the International Visitor Program (IVP) of the US State Department which annually brings to the United States about 5,000 foreign nationals from all over the world to meet and confer with their professional counterparts. The IVs are current or potential leaders in government, media, education, the arts, business, and other fields.

Among the thousands of individuals who have participated in the IVP since its inception five decades ago are more than 186 current and former chiefs of state, 1,500 Cabinet-level ministers and many distinguished leaders from the public and private sectors.

The IVs will convene again on Saturday, at the Cultural Center of the Philippines at 8:30 a.m., to formulate "doable" work programs on the theme "Individual and Social Transformation through Volunteerism."

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OPINION

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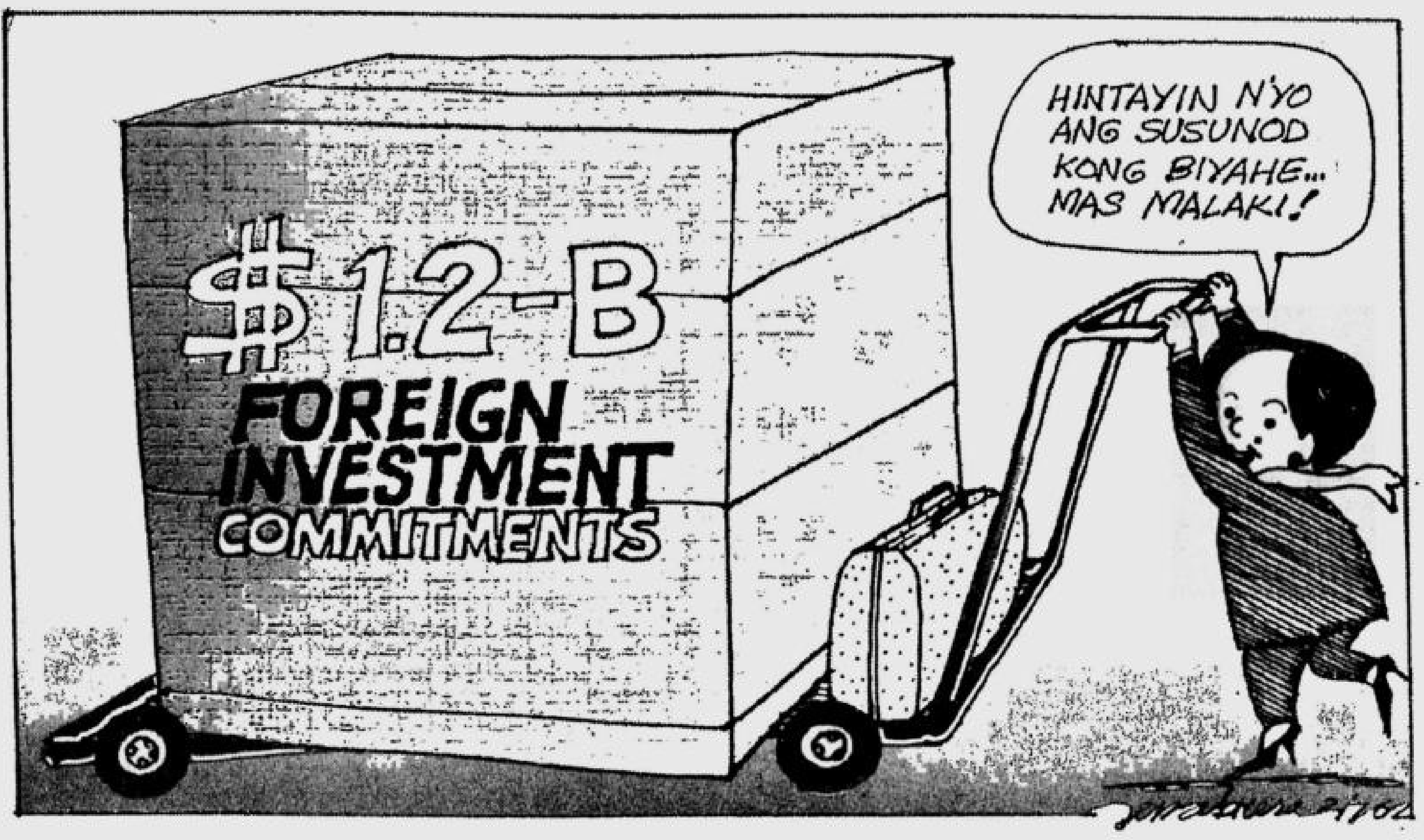
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Who is fighting poverty?

EDITORIAL

AGAIN, concern for the poor has returned as the center of attention of political and economic leaders both overseas and in the Philippines.

In the just-concluded summit of the world's political, economic and academic elite, the World Economic Forum, in New York, two themes were resonant: advancing security in a fragile world and reducing poverty and restoring sustained economic growth. The focus on the poor as the root of conflict and even attacks by terrorists came as a response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States. But while US Secretary of State Colin Powell and Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill acknowledged the need to combat poverty, they focused on the need to combat "evil regimes." Their remarks at the forum right away drew attention to President George W. Bush's budget proposal for next year which provides the biggest military build-up in two decades while plunging the US government again into deficit.

The budget is a war budget that somehow leaves the impression that Powell and O'Neill were speaking with a forked tongue at the summit where there was a rising clamor for debt relief to the poorest countries and diversion of spending by rich countries from military to economic development spending. Bush presented to the US Congress a $2.128-trillion budget for the fiscal year beginning October under which US defense spending would increase by 14 percent. The White House estimates the war on terrorism to cost the US economy $300 billion over the next five years. And one indication that the priority goes to the campaign against terrorism is the warning that fighting terrorism would depress growth "because more labor and capital will be diverted toward the production of security and away from the production" (of other goods and services).

While military spending receives a big boost, the budget seeks cuts on health and education spending. With this shift in spending by the world's largest economy, the voices at the forum calling for a serious examination of poverty as a cause of conflict and terrorist attacks virtually got a short shrift.

United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan made a pitch for the poor nations when he said that the poor were being left out in globalization. He said globalization per se was not the problem. The problem was that the benefits of globalization were flowing to the rich countries, to the disadvantage of the "downtrodden masses."

The terrorist attacks in the United States were not entirely unleashed by Islamic fanaticism trying to settle old scores with the military decline of Islamic societies at the hands of the "crusaders" beginning in the 11th century. Part of the resentment has something to do with economics. The world's rich economies have been sited in the more fertile and resource-rich countries of Europe, while the poor Islamic countries are located in resource-scarce regions, except those endowed with oil deposits.

Whether at the summit or in Manila, attention is refocused on the poor in the aftermath of violent events associated with rebellion of the poor. The May 1 rebellion of Manila's urban poor, which stormed Malacañang Palace, shocked President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo into paying more attention to poverty beyond just giving lip service to its alleviation. Poverty alleviation is now an important target of the administration out of self-interest—i.e., to prevent another rebellion and to deny political demagogues the opportunity to turn the poor into their constituency.

President Macapagal carried this theme to the WEF, but it is doubtful if corporate leaders, who were well represented at the forum, would inject anti-poverty programs into their corporate strategies. On the other hand, the Macapagal administration's anti-poverty program is hampered by extremely limited resources. At best it can only tranquilize the poor temporarily.

The President's call for the creation of a new international coalition to wage war on poverty could be falling on deaf ears. The global scope of the US campaign on terrorism ties up enormous resources in military spending. As the most important source of capital and investment, the United States sets the pace for the direction of capital flows. The flow right now is moving away from poverty alleviation or aiding poor economies.

Labor secretary vs labor recruiters

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

LABOR recruiters are on the warpath against Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas. They have reportedly amassed several million pesos as a war chest to use against her. At a recent meeting in a big Metro Manila hotel, some members of the recruitment industry allegedly vowed to crush not only Sto. Tomas but also the Department of Labor and Employment itself and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

The recruitment industry has become so big and the recruiters so rich that they can now challenge the government and threaten it. Many recruiters are now multi-millionaires living in exclusive Makati villages. Wealth often gives their holders unusual feelings of power, and recruiters are no exception. And where did they get that wealth and sense of power? From the millions of overseas Filipino workers from each of whom they extracted at least one month of their salaries abroad. In short, they have fattened on the blood and sweat of poor Filipino workers who were forced to leave their families to work abroad to earn a living.

Why are the recruiters mad at Sto. Tomas? Because she wants to change the rules of recruitment to prevent overcharging of fees by recruiters. A full 75 percent of complaints reaching the POEA concerns overcharging by licensed recruiters. President Macapagal herself said that in her meetings with Filipino communities during her trips abroad, the principal complaint was about the excessive fees the workers had to pay recruiters.

When found collecting fees illegally, recruiters are required to refund the excess to the worker. But rather than pay, many recruiters just close shop and resurface with another name and a different set of incorporators.

The recruiters are required to deposit an escrow account of P300,000 and put a P1 million capitalization to pay for refunds and to answer for mishaps and misdemeanors of workers while overseas. But these amounts are so small compared to the millions of pesos they have to answer for that they continued with the "close-open" tactic.

Clearly, this had to change and the labor secretary wants to make the changes. First, she would double the minimum capital requirement to P2 million and increase the escrow account to P1 million. This escrow account will earn interest and the recruiter can collect it.

Another change is the strict enforcement of rules on overcharging. If a recruiter charges a worker more than one month's pay plus documentation cost, he loses his license. In the words of Sto. Tomas, either the recruiter "does right by his license or he loses it."

Some countries, like Norway and the United Kingdom, do not allow payment of recruitment fees since the principals already pay their agents the equivalent of the worker's one-month salary for mobilization. But many Filipino recruiters still collect from the worker's one-month's salary. This is clearly a violation of the rules of the host country and of Philippine law. This greedy practice has to stop.

There are Filipino workers abroad who are able to find placements for their relatives, often in the same households and offices. Recruiters did not find the jobs for them; the relatives did. But recruiters insist that they go though a recruitment agency and pay the recruitment and other fees.

"But why should they?" Sto. Tomas asks. "The agencies did not find the jobs for them. Why should they benefit from their placements? This is unconscionable." This practice also has to stop.

Under the proposed rules, employment contracts of these workers can be processed directly by the POEA. Thus, the workers don't have to borrow money to pay for the placement fees exacted by recruiters.

Competition for jobs among overseas workers from other countries has forced wages of Filipino workers downwards even if it is generally acknowledged that they are among the world's best, so they should not be made to pay to recruiters more than what is fair, Sto. Tomas said.

And to inform and guide jobseekers, the POEA will start publishing, both in its website and in the newspapers, the list of licensed recruitment agencies. It will also publish lists of agencies with pending cases, those that have been suspended, and those whose licenses have been cancelled.

For these efforts to do right by Filipino workers, the recruiters have waged war against the labor secretary. Expect black propaganda, rumors, negative stories and even lies against her to appear in media. Recruiters may even organize demonstrations against her.

All because the leeches among the recruiters don't want to do right by the workers on whom they fatten. They have gotten so used to feeding on the blood of our countrymen that they don't want any change. They have already become filthy rich but they are still not satisfied. They want more.

Lobby money, plenty of it, often works wonders on politicians. The recruiters have plenty of that. But let us hope that politicians will, this time, be able to distinguish between right and wrong.

And see that the public is squarely behind the labor secretary.

Exercises

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I REMEMBER when Julius Nyerere, one of the most powerful voices to come out of the Third World in the 1970s, came here about a decade ago. I rushed to UP to listen to him talk, and found only a sprinkling of people there. Truly our sense of proportion, if not our sense of history, is a little skewed. But Nyerere said something I still remember to this day.

He was talking about the debt. Brimming with humor, he spoke of how Third World governments tended to depict their sorties to the World Bank and other global financial institutions as essays in hardball negotiations. You get this image, he said, of smartly dressed Third World finance ministers and their retinue pulling out document after document from their briefcases and dazzling their foreign counterparts with their grasp of the matter at hand.

The reality in fact, Nyerere said, is different. The reality is that the same smartly dressed (that part at least is true) Third World finance ministers and their retinue wait hat in hand in the equivalent of a doctor's waiting room. If they carried begging bowls in lieu of briefcases, they would not strike a more mournful pose. When they are finally led to the anterooms of financial power, they are too awed to talk. They end up bowing to the inevitable, though often made to feel what they get is what they wanted all along.

I remembered this when I read Jose Almonte's and Jaime Naval's commentary in "Talk of the Town" last Sunday. Naval's especially. He argues that the American troops in Basilan do not constitute a loss of sovereignty. Inviting them is in fact a full exercise of sovereignty. Of course, Naval adds, we should not allow the United States to dictate the terms of their presence here, or to meddle in internal affairs.

This falls into the same mold as John Gibson's remark that Britons have military agreements with the United States too but do not feel antsy about them. Why in God's name should they? That doesn't argue for the case, that only highlights the monumental difference between a North country like the United Kingdom and a South one like the Philippines. Which isn't made up for by local officials strutting around and telling their countrymen how they eyeballed down their counterparts in the US State Department and Pentagon.

I don't know where Naval got his degree to teach political science, and at UP too. But the whole history of this country must show him how next to impossible it is for this country to enforce the most basic terms of its military agreements with the United States. The bases agreement expressly stated that US personnel would be under Philippine jurisdiction, but none of the servicemen who shot scavenging children in Clark and Subic to death or who raped Filipino women ever landed in Philippine courts.

The Philippine Constitution itself expressly bans nuclear weapons, but American ships are free to dock in Philippine waters while carrying them. That's the part that reminds me of Nyerere again, local officials saying with a straight face they have people to inspect American ships for nuclear weapons. The image is that of stern-faced Filipino experts wrapped in protective clothing walking up and down the decks of American warships with Geiger counters. Guess what the reality is.

And if there's any lingering doubt about the near-impossibility of enforcing the terms of military agreements, the toxic wastes should dispel it. That's an issue that must be dredged up again and again: Those toxic wastes have already killed more people, children especially, than the Abu Sayyaf. Yet we do not call the people responsible for them terrorists. We do not call the refusal to clean them up—as American law itself demands—an act of terrorism.

Enforcing the terms of the military agreements has been next to impossible in normal times. Can you imagine how it would be in today's abnormal circumstances?

Circumstances that include an American depiction of the Philippine South as the outer limits of the "axis of evil," a phrase that resonates with Armageddon, and sanctions Apocalypse-type responses. And rationalized in this case by the mere presence of the Abu Sayyaf, a group that has taken on mythical, larger-than-death, proportions by the evocation of such shibboleths as "al-Qaida." Reminds you of Gandalf not daring to utter the name of the Evil One. Except that this is no fantasy—or it is one that has very real, and terrifying, consequences.

Circumstances that include the American president saying he would not abide any country being timid in the fight against terrorism. Of course, there was Madeleine Albright to remind the world how utterly insane George Bush sounded, and to worry about the American global standing afterward, but that is little consolation to us—or hindrance to the unfolding of the American hubris.

Circumstances that include the rediscovery by our leaders of the one monstrous addiction we thought we had kicked after kicking out the US bases, which is mendicancy. The one brain-addling substance Claro M. Recto and others strove mightily to wean us from, which people like Diosdado Macapagal tried desperately to hold on to. Like father, like daughter. Can anything be more pathetic than all these sighs and groans and cries of "We need American troops to rid us of the Abu Sayyaf," "We should be thankful they are here," "We should be appreciative that they are teaching us how to fight in our own terrain"?

And we say it's all right to bring American military presence back in this country so long as we do not allow them to abuse the hospitality, to meddle in our affairs, and to compromise our sovereignty?

Naval says it is an exercise of full sovereignty to invite American troops here. Well, so is it a full exercise of freedom to shoot oneself in the head.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

National tension considerably lower

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

PRESIDENT Macapagal and Vice President Guingona have put their differences behind them over the Balikatan exercises and have arrived at a mutually acceptable working framework for the sake of the national interest. In so doing, they have displayed the highest statesmanship. The Vice President has wisely chosen to ignore the terrible heckling he has been getting from the media and various groups for having allegedly abandoned his nationalist principles, realizing doubtless that he could better serve the nation inside the Cabinet. The President, on the other hand, has graciously heeded the nationalists' clamor to tailor the terms of reference to the national interest. The result is that the level of national tension has decreased considerably.

* * *

Now that things have cleared at the top, it's time to tackle the urgent business of wiping out the Abu Sayyaf bandits as well as criminality in the metropolis. I submit that kidnappings and other urban crimes constitute the bigger drawback to foreign investments. The kidnap gangs seem to have become bolder and one measure of the difficult times is that these gangs are now said to settle for small ransoms, meaning they're victimizing ordinary citizens and no longer the taipans. The way it looks, we don't need New York Mayor Rudy Guiliani as GMA's adviser. What we need are some truly committed police officials and personnel and equally dedicated local government officials who will work hand in hand to stop rising criminality.

By the way, the public is so outraged over the brutal rape-slaying of two defenseless young sisters in Antipolo recently and the police better catch this beast quickly.

* * *

I'm heartened that the INQUIRER has thrown its weight behind the "Buy Pinoy" movement launched by various chambers of commerce recently, through its recent editorial. Maybe the prime movers could have vehicle stickers made advocating "Buy Pinoy" and go on a media blitz to drum up awareness. Bro. Rolly Dizon, president of the De La Salle University System, advises not only drawing up a list of RP-made products but also putting "Made in RP" stickers on the products to guide consumers.

The "Buy Pinoy" advocates' thesis is simple: with the global slowdown, our exports, particularly furniture and clothing, have gone down, and as a result, many factories might lay off people. To save the jobs, business executives are appealing to Filipino consumers to buy locally made items, stressing that increasing our local purchases by even just 10 percent would go a long way. This is a sound argument, and there is no reason this nation of 80 million people, a huge market by any count, cannot save its workers' jobs if we buy our own products.

* * *

This appeal is not new; other stronger economies have turned to their own people. Recently we took out to dinner a Rome-based Filipino friend of ours who's visiting, Sonny Cortez, a ranking official of the Food and Agriculture Organization. Sonny noted that this "turning inward " (termed "localization") appears to be a worldwide phenomenon. He pointed out that officials in Germany's ailing economy recently made this appeal. In a recent TV talk show, Jonathan Sy, secretary general of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce, noted that Australians are also campaigning among themselves to buy Aussie products, with the rallying cry: "Save your son's job."

* * *

Former Quezon Rep. Oscar F. Santos agrees wholeheartedly with the "Buy Pinoy" movement, but he stresses that to create a demand for our small industries, we must upgrade the quality of their products, so that those who are dependent on them will get a bigger income. Santos cites as an example the lowly *bucayo* which used to be a thriving industry in Pangasinan, once noted for the three B's: *bangus, bagoong* and *bucayo*. But *bucayo* sales have gone down a lot, due to the influx of imported chocolates like Hershey's and M&M's.

Ka Oca related that to help promote coco products and improve the farmers' income, he recently went to Pangasinan with the Philippine Coconut Authority's provincial manager Lito Aquino. Among the problems they saw was that some local products like the *bucayo* suffer in comparison with imported sweets from Taiwan, Malaysia and Thailand in terms of content and packaging. Ka Oca said that while there is a big market for our local products, considering the many "Filipino stores" abroad, the problem is how to make them competitive with those of the Asian region. He said the Department of Trade and Industry could encourage product development and more aggressive marketing by its commercial attachés; the Department of Science and Technology should help improve the product content; and the Department of Foreign Affairs should pursue economic diplomacy.

* * *

Tomorrow, Friday, Feb. 8, at 7 p.m. at the Bahay Alumni on the UP Diliman campus, Erda-Tech Foundation, headed by Fr. Pierre Tritz, S.J., is sponsoring a concert, "Spirit of Love Project," to raise funds for its technical-vocational high school for students from very poor families. This is your chance, kind readers, to enjoy a lovely evening and support the training of impoverished student-scholars so that they will become productive members of society. The concert will feature the popular Spirit of '67 Band that is currently a big favorite at Rockwell, and famed baritone Basil Valdez. Organized by the Erda ways and means committee chaired by Nelia T. Gonzalez, it will have as special guests Speaker and Ms Jose de Venecia, long-time Erda benefactors. Tickets at P300 and P500 are available at the door.

Surviving adolescence, and adolescents

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

FOLLOWING is my keynote speech at the opening of the Third Postgraduate Course on "Issues of Adolescents with Special Needs" held at the Philippine Children's Medical Center

* * *

THANK you very much for inviting me to speak before you. When Dr. Alexis Reyes first spoke to me about being your keynote speaker, I wondered why I would be so honored when my only qualification to speak on the topic is that I am a parent—of a young man just a few years past adolescence, and of a young woman in her mid-teens.

In that sense you could say I am both a survivor and a combatant. I remember when our son turned 13 almost physically bracing myself for the "troubled teen" years. "Uh-oh, here it comes," my husband and I told ourselves. With my daughter, the onset of adolescence was accompanied by startling physical changes. Before our eyes, her body was transforming itself, visible signs that she had irrevocably left the world of childhood. But aside from the usual signposts—the sudden need and demand for privacy, anxieties (more on our part than theirs) about relationships and sexual awakening, assertions of independence that seemed to necessitate questioning our heretofore unquestioned wisdom—their passage through this phase of life has been, for us their parents at least, relatively tranquil. Knock on wood.

My children's transition from childhood to adolescence has even brought unexpected blessings. True, you lose a child who once looked at you with eyes filled with trust, wonder and total dependence. But one day, you are having a stimulating conversation and you discover you have gained a friend. Instead of being peppered with questions, you get opinions. I miss being the fount of wisdom, but I have found that there's more fun being a young person's peer.

* * *

WE'RE told that adolescence is a relatively modern concept. In ancient societies, puberty was the boundary between childhood and adulthood. The capability to sire a child or get pregnant meant one had moved on to adult responsibilities and freedoms. In some societies, including rural communities in the Philippines, there are no teenagers. Young men, once they develop the necessary strength and skills, take on more and more of the burden of farming and manual work. Young women are expected to marry early and become mothers. The harsh demands of survival and livelihood leave no time for apprenticeship, which is what adolescence is, essentially, an apprenticeship in the craft of living.

Only recently, and in more developed areas, have societies given young people this breathing space between a carefree childhood and adult responsibilities. During these years, young people are expected to "grow out" of their childish ways and move inexorably toward maturity. Even as their bodies are evolving and hormones are surging through their systems, they are expected to evolve emotionally and intellectually as well, using this time of transition to fix their moral compass and set their relationship bearings.

And yet, what does society really expect of teenagers? As parents, we wait impatiently for them to "grow up," and yet resent the manifestations of independence. When they begin questioning our own opinions, or express opinions contrary to our own cherished beliefs, they are being "impertinent." When they seek their own identities, and do so by adopting "different" styles of dress, speech and manners, the more shocking and scandalous the better, we demand conformity or label them as "freaks." Forgetting we grew up to the cacophony of rock and rock-and-roll, we find ourselves echoing our own parents: "Will you please turn the music down, it's painful to the ears!"

* * *

NO wonder adolescents are so confused! No wonder that adolescence, designed by modern society to be a zone of comfort and a transition to the grueling demands of adulthood, has now turned out to be a minefield with disasters—drugs and alcohol, teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, dissipation and a life of crime—lurking just below the surface.

Which is why I'm here. Parents, obviously, need help in raising, if not surviving, the teenagers in their family. And adolescents, especially those with special needs, need the intervention of caring professionals who could ease the often-jarring transition to adulthood with guidance and wise and loving counsel. It is difficult enough getting through this passage that is often heralded by confusing and confounding physical transformations. How much more difficult it is if one were facing as well intellectual and emotional challenges that cannot quite catch up with the body's undeniable transition to the adult self. That you do your work in the face of an increasing demand for your services that is not matched by a corresponding increase in available resources, says so much about your dedication and commitment.

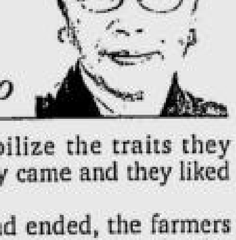
As a parent, I would like to thank all of you assembled here today for the work you are doing with and for our children. And with and for us parents. There are some challenges that love and good intentions alone cannot overcome. And we are all so fortunate that we have professionals like you who have devoted your careers and lives to helping young people weather the difficulties that accompany the move toward maturity.

So from this survivor and combatant in the homefront, *Maraming Salamat*. And may you continue helping our young people face the future.

Set free the seeds: Villar's bill

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo



"HOW can you own something which will outlive you?" Although slain tribal chief Macli-ing Dulag said those immortal words to refer to land, he could have said them to refer to seeds and to life itself. Who owns the seeds of this earth? Who owns life? Who owns the butterflies?

Multinational agri-businesses have already laid claim to seeds, the source of the world's staples. They have even engineered them so that you would buy from them only and not be able to produce them yourself. (Heard of seeds with terminator genes?) You could be charged in court—as in the case of a Canadian farmer—for growing plants derived from these designer seeds, even if it was the busy bees and butterflies that crossed over and made it happen in your farm.

Take the case of Mang Imong. His cousin Gene gave him rice seeds that were said to be high-yielding. Mang Imong planted the seeds in a plot. In another plot he planted two traditional rice varieties, from a neighbor and from what he had saved the previous season.

Mang Imong observed the traits of the three varieties and selected individual plants that showed hardy qualities such as tolerance to drought and insects, etc. He harvested the seeds of these so-called off-type plants and planted them the next season. This practice had helped him in the past. On his own, he had discovered varieties that adapted well to the conditions in his farm.

One day Mang Imong joined a farmer field school (FFS) on participatory plant breeding (PPB) conducted by an NGO. Mang Imong learned scientifically how to cross one rice variety with another. He had much fun with scissors and tweezers. He even offered samples of the three varieties he was observing in his farm, for the selecting parent. From many varieties, the farmers wanted to develop a drought-tolerant, high-quality, *tungro*-resistant, high-yielding plant.

And so they all waited eagerly for the results of their experiment. To make a long story short, Mang Imong and the farmers were about to produce varieties that suited their farm conditions. They only had to see their work through several seasons to stabilize the traits they wanted. The awaited day came and they liked what they saw.

Long after the FFS had ended, the farmers continued developing breeding lines and stabilizing them. Word spread about their efforts. Mang Imong often shared with his fellow farmers his knowledge and precious seeds as well. Soon, they told each other, they could sell seeds to other villages. They drew up a sharing scheme for the projected earnings.

Professor Wily, a plant breeder, heard about Mang Imong's seeds and asked for samples. Mang Imong gladly shared some with him. Like the farmers, Professor Wily experimented on the seeds and made selections to develop good varieties. Ah, he thought, if I get it right I could apply for a "protection." Well, he lost no time and did just that.

Then El Niño struck. Mang Imong's crops were all but wiped out. He looked for Professor Wily who had received his special seeds. Could he spare some? The professor gave Mang Imong a handful and told him to come back for more if they were to his liking. However, Mang Imong would have to buy next time.

When Mang Imong and the farmers went back for more, Professor Wily warned them that selling, exchange and further breeding of such seeds would not be allowed because they were "protected" by the PVP (plant variety protection). They could replant the variety, he added, but only in their own landholdings. They were all stunned.

Mang Imong and the farmers went home sad and angry and with a thousand questions in their minds. The fruit of their knowledge had been stolen. Worse, they would be punished if they attempted to spread it for the good of many. (Story line from Southeast Asia Regional Institute for Community Education.)

So, what could protect farmers from such a fate? Is Senate Bill 1865 ("An Act to Provide Protection to New Plant Varieties, Establishing a National Plant Variety Protection Board and for Other Purposes" filed by Sen. Manuel Villar and which incorporated a previous one by Senators Sergio Osmeña III and Juan Flavier) the answer?

The answer is NO—if you ask Searice. Not if it stays as drafted. Gaps have to be filled. While it commends the lawmakers' efforts to protect intellectual property and their recognition of provisions in the Indigenous People's Rights Act (Ipra) related to plant variety protection, Searice reminds: "A plant variety protection system that only recognizes the role of the private sector and the formal system in varietal development **ignores** the hundreds of years of intellectual contribution of farming communities in the development of varieties, from which the so-called new varieties are actually derived." If it **ignores** the farmers' contributions and **does not operationalize** their rights, the system would encourage intellectual theft.

This plant variety system, Searice points out, evolved from an industrial context where uniformity of varieties ensured efficiency. In our context, the opposite applies. Diversity has been the key to food security. Intellectual property rights will impede free exchange and sharing of seeds among communities and sectors.

At the international level, there are renegotiations on the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), to put more weight on Farmers' Rights.

Searice hails efforts toward plant variety protection, BUT farmers' rights to "free exchange and sharing of seeds" must be upheld. Consultations, consultations.

Set free the seeds. More next time.

What's in a balloon?

YOUNGBLOOD

Kristine Villaba-Fabregas

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—***Ed.***

HAVE you ever had those days when you wished all the balloons in a child's little world would just pop out of existence, instead of remaining scattered all over a room to gather dust during their short life cycles? One recent Saturday was such a day for me and my husband.

My mom brought my daughter Avi, who is almost 3 years old, to a lunch party for a dear aunt who was turning 77. Avi came home trying to keep a playful smile on her face while juggling four huge balloons on sticks which seemed to keep escaping from her grasp every time she took a step. The big impish grin on her face told me that she was proud to have so many balloons.

I turned to look at my husband, when I heard Avi exclaim "Oh no!" She was laughing excitedly as another balloon escaped from her fingers.

"Oh no!" groaned my husband after seeing so many balloons. He then called my daughter to his side and asked what she intended to do with so many balloons.

Her simple reply was: to play with them, of course. And then she started to show off her new acquisitions in front of us.

My husband gave me a conspiratorial look and suggested very softly that I get rid of two of those balloons as soon as Avi put them down and looked away. We were scheduled to go to the hospital for her younger sister's monthly check-up so he said he was sure Avi would not notice the loss of the two balloons.

I responded with a frown, but he rushed to explain that only two poppers would fit inside our tiny room. He was right, of course, but I didn't have the heart to take away half of my daughter's joy.

Trying to think fast, I remembered an article that I had read earlier. It said that parents should encourage toddlers to give early in their young lives. This seemed like the perfect time for giving that lesson.

I asked Avi if she would like to share her balloons with her younger sister Altine. Her quick nod and offer of a violet balloon to her 7-month-old sister were good signs.

Now, for the other two balloons. "Avi," I asked, choosing my words carefully, "Do you want to give the other balloons to other children, too?"

The smirk on her mouth and her raised eyebrows told me all too plainly that that she wasn't going to be fooled by this one. "Mommy," she explained, "these balloons need me to take care of them. I can't give them away."

I turned to my husband for help, but he was trying hard not to show his amusement. When he turned his back on us, I knew no help was going to come from that corner.

"Avi, my dear," I smiled to show her I was confident that my idea of giving was good, "there are so many children in the streets who are sad. These balloons can make them smile. Don't you want to make them smile?"

Her answer was a curt "No."

Still I insisted that we bring two of the balloons on the trip to the doctor. And while we were in the car my eyes would wander around, hoping to find a street child whenever we had to stop for the red light.

It was while we were waiting for the final turn that would take us to the hospital when a girl of about 6 knocked on Avi's side of the window. My daughter looked at me with big, stubborn but questioning eyes. She looked at the balloons which she had been hiding on the floor since the start of the trip. I looked at her intently hoping she would take the hint, but she avoided looking again in my direction.

The battle of wills between me and my daughter was at a standoff when my husband pulled out a balloon and ordered my daughter to give it to the little girl by the window. Then he opened the window on Avi's side of the car and we felt relieved when she quickly gave the balloon to the street child.

The little girl seemed surprised and amazed by the gesture, and she just turned away without saying thank you. Of course, she didn't see my daughter's glum face.

As the girl walked farther away, Avi observed: "Mommy, she didn't seem happy with my balloon."

I had reached the same conclusion, but I refused to show it. Instead of agreeing with Avi, I told her, "Maybe she was just surprised." To distract her, I asked Avi to get Altine a rattle from the baby bag.

As soon as the green arrow lit up, my husband turned the car and drove toward the hospital. Avi suddenly stood up from her seat, beaming excitedly.

When I turned to see what she was looking at, I noticed a group of about seven kids on the other side of the road. In the middle was the little girl holding a white balloon. She was smiling proudly and pointing to our car. And all of the kids were waving to us and shouting their heartfelt thanks!

Wow! It felt so good. And I felt even better when I saw Avi's big contented grin. "She liked my balloon! They liked my balloon!" she shouted. She started jumping up and down the car seat in her excitement and joy.

That was when I realized that telling Avi about the concept of giving was not enough. Without saying anything, the little girl, who was now the proud owner of the white balloon, taught Avi how to truly share.

There's a great difference between simply giving and truly sharing. When we give, we just part with something that may or may not be of value to us. But when we share, we give something and receive something in return: the chance to make somebody else happy.

Now Avi is looking forward to sharing another balloon. Doing it makes her happy.

Kristine Villaba-Fabregas finished AB Communication at the Ateneo de Manila. She was a delegate to the World Youth Congress in Paris, France, in 1997.

THEY SAID

Uninformed

"His speech is not well researched by his ghost writers."

—Former President Fidel V. Ramos, reacting to US President George W. Bush's statement that the Philippines is one of 12 countries harboring international terrorists

Roots of terrorism

"Poverty and desperation provide the opportunity for terrorism to grow and then development and prosperity cannot occur."

—United States Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster

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Will a clone succeed Desierto?

KUDOS to your paper for hitting the nail right on the head with your editorial last Jan. 27. More! More! More!

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto may choose to shrug off the latest accusations against him as a ploy of the Estrada camp to distract him from the plunder cases. The public however should know better, than buy this oft-repeated and worn refrain.

I observed the conduct of Rep. Oscar Moreno during Estrada's impeachment trial, and there was no iota of proof that he was pro-Estrada at all. So what gives?

Some quarters may be anticipating the end of Desierto's term this year, but they should not bring out the champagne yet. It is believed that he is grooming someone from his stable, created in his own image and likeness—if not worse. You can't help but notice the guy: he is in almost every press conference called by the ombudsman. He is, as the cliché goes, "always seated at the right hand of his benefactor." A true-blue member of the Visayan mafia in that office.

When the time comes to choose a new ombudsman, we pray for divine guidance. And we hope that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will realize that if she wants the campaign against graft and corruption to succeed, then Margarito P. Gervacio Jr. is not her guy.

This may be a cry in the wilderness, but I challenge all of those who have been aggrieved, by faulty, anomalous and questionable acts of the Desierto-Gervacio tandem to come out and speak now.—**KAREN KRISTIN CHIEW, Argao, Cebu City**

E-Pass proves convenience on SLEX

WE refer to Paul Bagatsing's letter that was published in the INQUIRER last Jan. 11.

First of all, we are one with him in saying that there is a need to equip all vehicles using the South Luzon Expressway with the e-Pass, especially the frequent users. It would have been a lot easier, of course, if we were to give the e-Pass for free. But the cost of the tag is not part of the toll fees. Our toll collections are just enough to cover the cost and maintenance of the toll road. Even the proceeds or interest earnings from prepayments and replenishments paid in advance by the tag holder are not enough to fully subsidize the cost of the Customer Service Center. There are no savings yet on the manpower requirements (toll tellers) and we don't see this happening immediately.

We regret to disagree with Bagatsing's opinion that e-Pass tag holders are not frequent users of the SLEX. At present more than 47,000 tags have been issued.

We have three lanes to accommodate 40 percent of the cash users while there is only one dedicated lane for the e-Pass users which comprise 60 percent of road users. And yet, even with the effort of ambulant tellers, traffic moves very slowly at the cash lanes, crowding the three lanes. For the only dedicated lane for the e-Pass, traffic moves smoothly, despite the fact that it handles more than the normal capacity of 1,200 vehicles per hour per lane at peak hours.

From a layman's perspective, it would seem from the heavy traffic at the cash lanes that there are more cash users than e-Pass users. This is not so. With the two to three seconds transaction at the lanes, vehicles with the e-Pass just zip in and out of the toll plazas, making it appear that the lanes are underutilized.

The same can be said with the other toll plazas that have dedicated lanes. Take the Filinvest toll plaza southbound, for example. During peak hours in the evening, say between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m., the e-Pass share is 53 percent of the traffic.

Again, it would seem from a layman's observation that there are more cash users because of the long queues at the cash lanes, despite the fact that there are two lanes, and only one lane for the e-Pass. The reason is the same. Transaction time at the cash lanes is much lower, despite the presence of ambulant tellers.

At toll plazas where there are e-Pass dedicated lanes, the e-Pass users make up at least 40 percent. Overall, therefore, there are more cash users than e-Pass users. However, in terms of contribution to revenues, e-Pass users, even if they are fewer in number, contribute higher revenue per capita because the majority are frequent users.—**ROMERICO O. REGANIT, general manager, PNCC Skyway Corp., Edsa corner Reliance Street, Mandaluyong City**

Honesty is the issue

TO CLEAR the contention regarding the theater production "Rajah Mangandiri," let me point out that Rajah Mangandiri is not the real issue. If La Mama resident artist Wayland Quintero asserts that their version is authentic and original, so be it. His claim will not change the reality that the Philippine Educational Theater Association was the first to produce a play on Rajah Mangandiri that wove several Maranao folktales into a Philippine version of the Ramayana.

The real issue here is honesty and it starts with Potri Ranka Manis (Mae Monteclaro-Roca), the Maranao princess, daughter of a sultan, who has made a niche for herself in New York. The moment I saw Mae Monteclaro-Roca's face in the INQUIRER (PDI, 9/29/01), I couldn't help but laugh. I had heard stories about her colorful adventures but this one was really amazing.

I knew her as a resident of Davao City in the late 1970s where she lived in Skyline Subdivision, married to a nice man named Joe Roca. There was absolutely no mention then of her being a member of any Filipino ethno-linguistic group or a descendant of some royal family. I knew her to be a Christian and she certainly did not worship Allah.

I met her again at the Cultural Center of the Philippines where she and I received the Gawad CCP for Literature in 1990. She was then working in Saudi Arabia and her poems about being a worker in a foreign land won third prize. She was still using the name Mae Monteclaro-Roca, but I heard from friends that she had converted to Islam.

A decade later, I learned from at least two people who visited her in New York that she already settled there with a brand new husband, and a brand new name. She reinvented herself as Potri Ranka Manis. Mae is an intelligent and resilient person with great leadership qualities. But she a princess? Questionable.

In the report made by the Associated Press, Potri a.k.a. Mae claims to be a daughter of a Maranao sultan from Maguing, Lanao del Sur. There are only two sultanates in the history of the Philippines: the Sultanate of Sulu established in 1450, and the Sultanate of Maguinandao established in 1619. The royal houses of Lanao are also revered but Maranao society has not reached that stage in socio-political and economic development to have gained power, leadership and breadth of influence as a sultanate. Colonial invasion preempted such a development in Maranao society.

Quintero said that they learn court dances from Potri Ranka Manis. That is another delusion. There are no royal or court dances in the Philippines. Why? Any student of history knows that colonial invasion had interfered in the full development of traditional society. Pre-colonial society had not reached a stage wherein the royal leadership allotted surplus wealth to finance royal dancers to exclusively dance for the sultan and his family. Another practical reason perhaps was that much of the resources went to resistance and war: from 1521 onwards, the Moro people were fighting colonial rule, protecting their ancestral domain and fighting for independence.

There are court dances in Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Korea and other Asian countries that have reached a much higher stage of political and economic development. As for the dances in the Philippines, they have remained communal, performed by the community as part of daily rituals—as proven by the researches on folk dances by National Artist Francisca Reyes Aquino. For instance, the very famous "royal dance" Singkil is a brilliant choreography of 20th century vintage. The real Singkil is, in reality, a peasant's dance.

I do not mean to shatter the career of Potri in New York and it's no business of mine if Filipino-Americans lionize her. But I think her students (she runs a dance studio, I hear) must know that things may not be the way they seem. Moreover, I am curious about what dance technique and dance tradition Mae Monteclaro (or Potri) is teaching. I just hope these are not the bastardized dance forms that many well-meaning people spread around. Mae or Potri was not a dancer though she was involved in a few theater productions in Davao City.

To really understand and discover Filipino culture, all of us Filipinos must rediscover our own roots through actual integration and research, and not just by relying on the "wisdom" of others. Come and visit the Philippines to do actual research and integration, to find out about Filipino culture and its many ethnic dimensions.

I know Ligaya Fernando-Amilbangsa, who was the first to question Potri's integrity. She is a respected cultural researcher, choreographer, dancer and a pioneer in cultural preservation. She lived in Sulu and Lanao for almost three decades. She married a brother of the last reigning Sultran of Sulu. Her children are true-blooded members of royalty.—**ROSALIE S. MATILAC, 3107 E. Jacinto St., New Capitol Estates, Quezon City**

Unmask those behind PEACe bonds scam

I AM greatly disturbed, as a taxpayer and as an NGO activist for about a third of my life, about the P35-billion PEACe bonds whose issuance is linked to Code-NGO. As a member of the NGO community for 24 years now, I hope the Senate committee looking into the scandalous deal will not leave a stone unturned until it ferrets out the real skunk or skunks behind the transaction that will burden the government with P2.48 billion in interest payments every year for the next 10 years. For sheer skullduggery and in the process reviving cronyism, string-pulling, patronage, opportunism, needless multibillion indebtedness by government, this one takes the cake. Even the hordes of corruption-prone and corrupted technocrats of the Marcos years would envy this deal as it came out not only with apparent legality and purity because the largesse earned is supposedly for a program for the poor.

As one doubting Thomas exclaimed after knowing that a foundation is headed by a priest, and its corporate secretary, the husband of a Cabinet member: "If there is heaven, I'm sure the stink rises up there."

Win-win situation, it is not definitely as claimed by its handlers. How? For three reasons: (1) because the government loses in the end; (2) the larger NGO community is shaken by its brazenness; and (3) President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's high moral ground is pulled down to the level of mud.

What is to be done?

First, the Senate committee looking into the anomaly needs to thoroughly clean up the stables (i.e., Treasury, Securities and Exchange Commission, Department of Finance, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Bureau of Customs, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, etc. and look into some private banks' quick-buck experts) which were left more odorous than ever by the money mavens within the government bureaucracies, thus making Code-NGO earn P1.8 billion gross out of nothing while its top officials walked laughing to the banks. This leaves behind thousands of gaping, moneyless NGOs throughout the country equally in bad need of cash. They too could easily qualify only if this transaction were preceded by some principled decisions that have guided many of their short-term lives in the service of the poor.

Second, to restore the good name of Code-NGO before the NGO community in the country and spare from further embarrassment the administration of President Macapagal, three top officials linked to Code-NGO should resign from the Cabinet for their role in this unprecedented scandal: Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho, Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman and Chair Ging Deles of the National Anti-Poverty Commission.—**RAUL E. SEGOVIA, chair, Citizens' Alliance for Consumer Protection (CACP), 2864-C Zamora St., Pasay City**

Papal visit in 2003 not yet official

I WISH to make a clarification on the article which appeared on Page 1 last Feb. 4, 2002, titled "Pope to visit RP next year for the world meeting of families." In an interview I gave on the subject matter about a month ago, I stressed that the Vatican had indeed chosen the Philippines as the venue of the world meeting of families. It has still to declare officially whether or not the event is to be a papal visit.

We are praying and hoping that the Holy Father comes. But we cannot preempt the official announcement coming from the Holy See.—**MSGR. HERNANDO M. CORONEL, secretary general, Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, General Luna Street, Intramuros, Manila**

War's games

FROM OUR history classes in the distant past, some of us will vaguely remember that on Feb. 4, 1899 an American soldier, Pvt. Willie Grayson, shot an unnamed Filipino soldier in Sta. Mesa, igniting a long bloody war that killed as many as 200,000 Filipinos. But, like one of those faded sepia photographs, the names, places and dates often have no context. Just what was going on at that time? What were American soldiers doing in Manila at that time?

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

I went through four books describing the circumstances surrounding that Philippine-American War and realized how so many of our wars were in fact games, with too many dispensable pawns. There are, once again, lessons to be learned as we find ourselves entangled today in the United States' global war against terrorism.

The last decade of the 19th century was already an era of globalization, mainly because of colonialism. In our part of the world, Western European powers had carved up China and were jealously guarding their territories even as they scouted for new ones. The Americans, the only major Western power without a formal colony, were also looking around: they had a naval squadron patrolling Asian waters and watching the European navies. Generally though, the Americans seemed content with more peaceful business "invasions." In Cuba, for example, they had become a major investor, practically controlling the sugar industry.

There were similarities between Cuba and the Philippines. Both were Spanish colonies with rebels fighting for independence. The United States government followed Cuban events with great interest, anxious about what might happen once the rebels took over. In 1897, US President William McKinley declared that it was the Americans' "absolute right" to protect their property in Cuba, and urged Spain to grant "autonomy" to the rebels. The US government knew that by sponsoring autonomy it could make sure power would pass on to wealthy Cuban sugar planters who were friendly to the Americans.

Spain resisted the proposal for an autonomous Cuban government into the new year, 1898. The United States thought a bit of gunboat diplomacy could be useful and sent in a warship, the USS Maine, for a friendly visit to Havana's harbor, but on Feb. 15, the Maine exploded while in the harbor, killing 264 American sailors. Even before investigations could be launched, the American public blamed the explosion on Spain and called for war.

Ten days after the Maine incident, US Adm. George Dewey, who commanded the Asiatic squadron, was ordered to begin offensive operations against the Spaniards in the Philippines. On April 30, Dewey engaged the Spanish squadron in Manila Bay, in what historian Leon Wolff calls "one of the most one-sided battles in the history of naval warfare." Four days later, US troops entered Manila. By July there were 8,500 American soldiers on the islands.

The Spaniards in the Philippines knew they were going to lose, and preferred to surrender to the Americans rather than to the indios, who had more than 300 years of accumulated grievances. On Aug. 13, the Spaniards and the Americans had their final encounter, with Spain losing. An armistice had Spain recognizing US control over "the harbor, city, and bay of Manila."

It was all too predictable, since Spain was a spent colonial force in the Philippines, but the Americans had another problem: the Filipino insurgents fighting for independence. Not to worry; the Americans had already spent the last few months negotiating with the rebels' leader, Emilio Aguinaldo. On Aug. 19, Aguinaldo was brought to Cavite on an American warship. Shortly after, he issued a statement calling the United States "the cradle of liberty" and assuring Filipinos America was on their side.

The Americans stayed on, transformed into a "liberator" even as they began to negotiate with Spain on the spoils of war. The Treaty of Paris was signed early in December, with Spain ceding Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines to the United States.

The treaty could not take effect until it was ratified by the US Senate, but even before this could happen, McKinley issued an executive order on Dec. 21 declaring US sovereignty over the entire Philippines. McKinley said God wanted Americans to civilize and Christianize the Filipinos. And besides, if the United States didn't take over, other European powers would. The most important consideration was, however, political: American jingoism was at its height and the historian Richard Welch writes that annexation offered McKinley "the greatest political gain and offered the fewest political dangers."

The new year, 1899, still saw the Treaty of Paris unratified, with senators divided especially on the issue of taking the Philippines as a colony.

On the night of Feb. 4, Private Grayson and a friend named Miller were doing sentry duty at Santol. He later describes what happened:

"About eight o'clock...something rose slowly but not twenty feet in front of us. It was a Filipino. I yelled, 'Halt!' He immediately shouted 'Halto' at me. Well, I thought the best thing to do was to shoot him. He dropped...Then two Filipinos sprang out of a gateway about fifteen feet from us. I called, "Halt," and Miller fired and dropped one. I saw that another was left. Well, I think I got my second Filipino that time..."

Within minutes, fighting spread throughout the area and US troops fanned out to secure strategic areas of Manila, burning down 12 barrios. Within a few hours, news had arrived in the United States about Filipino insurgents "attacking" Americans in Manila. On Feb. 6, the US Senate ratified the Treaty of Paris. We were now an American colony.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.com

Why bring in the Gordons?

THIS pertains to your news item published last Jan. 28, 2002 regarding the proposed congressional probe on the misuse of government property involving Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Chair Felicito Payumo and his son. The article elaborated on the unauthorized use of an SBMA vehicle by the young Payumo and his friends, which led to an accident and the wreckage of the vehicle.

My query is, why is it so necessary to mention the Gordons in connection with this news item that involves the Payumos when we had nothing to do with the resolution of Rep. Loretta Rosales, and much less with the alleged petty text messages that the young Payumo received?

As it is, Secretary Richard Gordon has more than enough challenges and concerns to hurdle involving the image of the country and its entire tourism industry.—**KATE H. GORDON, mayor, Olongapo City**

The WORLD

Editor **Luvern B. Gueco**

BREAKDOWN OF ORDER

Palestinian mob kills 3 defendants in court

JENIN, West Bank—Highlighting a breakdown of law and order in the Palestinian territories, an enraged mob led by two dozen gunmen, including members of the Palestinian security forces, burst into a heavily guarded courtroom and killed three men convicted in a vigilante killing.

The Palestinian justice system was notable for its one-day trials and heavy reliance on security courts, rather than civilian courts, even before the Mideast fighting began 16 months ago. Since then, the legal system has become more chaotic—as have many other services provided by Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority.

Many Palestinians acknowledge the problem, but say restrictions imposed by Israel, combined with Israeli bombing raids, have made it impossible for the Palestinian Authority to be a proper government.

On Tuesday, in a court session lasting less than an hour, three members of the Kameel clan pleaded guilty to the murder Friday of another clan member, an officer in the security forces. Two defendants were promptly sentenced to death, but because of their ages—18 and 17—the sentences were reduced to 15 years each. The third man also received 15 years.

Police had expected trouble, smuggling the defendants into the makeshift courtroom before dawn and dressing them in police uniforms to disguise them, witnesses and security officials said.

On the street, an angry crowd of about 500 people, most members of the large Kameel clan, demanded the death sentence for the three. When someone in the courtroom shouted out the window, "15 years!" the crowd became enraged.

About two dozen gunmen stormed the building. They included members of the Palestinian security forces, though all were in civilian clothes, witnesses said. Most or all of the gunmen were believed to be related to Osama Kameel, the man shot dead Friday.

Police hid the three defendants in a bathroom, but were quickly overpowered by the gunmen who brandished automatic rifles and pistols. The gunmen quickly found the trio and shot them dead, witnesses said.

They then dragged the bodies into the street as the crowd cheered and gunmen fired into the air in celebration. The attackers quickly fled, and the outgunned police did not attempt to arrest them.

The vigilante killings "show that the Palestinian courts and the judicial system are weak and don't have the confidence of the people," said Ghassan Khatib, a Palestinian political analyst. But, he added, ``the Israeli restrictions on Palestinians are causing a semi-collapse of our system."

The public was barred from the trial, held in a makeshift courtroom in Jenin's Chamber of Commerce building, a site selected because Israel has bombed most government buildings, including courthouses, to rubble. Israel carried out the strikes in retaliation for Palestinian attacks, saying many of the deadliest suicide bombings have originated in Jenin, in the northern West Bank. *AP*

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Sharon expected to ask Bush to isolate Arafat, lean on Iran

JERUSALEM—Setting out for his fourth White House visit in a year, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon hopes to get US help in isolating Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and thwarting what Israel sees as Iran's attempts to destabilize the Middle East.

Sharon's three-day visit centers around talks in Washington on Thursday with US President George W. Bush, who has sharply rebuked Arafat for not doing enough to rein in Palestinian militants.

In interviews last week, Sharon said he planned to ask Bush to go a step further and cut all contacts with Arafat—a decision that would likely strengthen the prevalent view in the Arab world that the United States is siding with Israel.

Arafat aides complained of US bias and said Bush was encouraging Israeli aggression against the Palestinians by inviting Sharon for the fourth time in a year; Bush has yet to meet with Arafat.

SHARON

"It's very shameful that a small state like Israel is dictating the American decisions," Arafat adviser Nabil Abu Rdeneh said Wednesday. "The United States has to take care of its interests in the Middle East and deal with the conflict fairly."

Other Palestinian officials, meanwhile, said Washington was resuming mediation efforts despite two failed truce missions in December and January. CIA chief George Tenet will arrive in the region early next week to try again to bring about an Israeli-Palestinian ceasefire, the officials said.

Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, who is already in the United States, said Arafat was not a partner for negotiations. He asked US officials to sidestep the Palestinian leader and hold talks with other Palestinian officials instead.

"I don't think there is any way to continue to work with Arafat as long as he is still putting himself in a position to be committed to the past and not to the future," Ben-Eliezer said Tuesday, after talks with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. *AP*

15 hijackers were Saudis, says Riyadh

RIYADH—Saudi Arabia acknowledged for the first time that 15 of the Sept. 11 suicide hijackers were Saudi citizens, but said Wednesday that the oil-rich kingdom bore no responsibility for their actions.

Previously, Saudi Arabia had said the citizenship of 15 of the 19 hijackers was in doubt despite US insistence they were Saudis. But Interior Minister Prince Nayef said Saudi leaders were shocked to learn 15 of the hijackers were from Saudi Arabia.

"The names that we got confirmed that," Nayef said in an interview. "Their families have been notified."

Osama bin Laden—the chief suspect in the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks the killed more than 3,000 people—was Saudi born but stripped of his citizenship in 1994.

Asked if he had information on whether Bin Laden was dead or alive, Nayef said: "We have no information and we have no interest in this subject." *AP*

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US throws book at 'American Taliban'

WASHINGTON—The United States threw the book at "American Taliban" John Walker Lindh, charging him with conspiring with the Afghan Islamic militia to kill his own countrymen, but denied it was planning to attack Iran, Iraq or North Korea.

A 12-member federal grand jury found the 21-year-old Walker Lindh, who was captured fighting on the side of the Taliban in Afghanistan, to be "an al-Qaida-trained terrorist who conspired to kill his fellow citizens," said US Attorney General John Ashcroft.

The 10-count indictment formalized six charges already leveled by the federal government and added four new ones: conspiracy to contribute services to al-Qaida, contributing services to the network, conspiracy to supply services to the Taliban, and using and carrying firearms and destructive devices during crimes of violence.

"If convicted of these charges Walker Lindh could receive multiple life sentences, six additional 10-year sentences, plus 30 years," Ashcroft said Tuesday. *AFP*

THE NATIONAL DILEMMA

Paraphrasing Sun-Tzu, it is said that WAR IS THE VIOLENT RESULT OF THE FAILURE OF POLITICS WHICH IS IN TURN UNDERSTOOD AS THE CIVILIZED MANAGEMENT OF CONFLICT.

Accordingly, the war in Mindanao is the consequence of the political impotence of traditional elite politics. And its sycophant solicitation for U.S. armed foreign troops' intervention in the resolution of this conflict unmask its confused understanding of the distinction between personal ambition and national intention between narrow, parochial, selfish interest and national interest.

The dilemma lies in the ambivalence of the Philippine Situation. On the one hand, it is the failure of the political leadership and the political system to address domestic issues which bring the country to war, and on the other hand it is also the same political leadership and political system that propose the outside solution of foreign intervention to end the war. The latter may well be welcomed as a peacekeeping force that oversees the national struggle for self determination but not as a safekeeping force that intends to preserve the failed governance of an obsolete political leadership and non-working constitutional system.

The dilemma therefore is much of a problem to the Philippines as it is to the United States. The former is faced with the decision of pecking on and cracking its own shell to full independent and sovereign nationhood, while the latter is confronted for the sake of stability in the region and her own national security with keeping a new rotten egg that she helped lay more than a century ago-the illustrado leadership of the elite, the old traditional force of Philippine Politics.

The resolution lies in re-making or re-inventing the historical origin of the nation and its armed forces: AN ARMED PEOPLES AGAINST THE INSTITUTIONS OF POWER AT THAT TIME.

The challenge today is thus to unify civil society leadership of a massive peoples force acting to dismantle the old institutions of power and the building of new ones under the protection of their (the peoples) armed forces within the framework of recognition of the international community.

The decision to chart the nation's destiny depends on how enlightened the people have from their experiences and on whether ideological, political and organizational leadership has found repose in a worthy and courageous symbol of struggle, with the will to emerge and determination to fight.

The internal resolve of the people and their leaders, not the external threat of sanctions must be the determinant of the nation's action.

The moment waits to be seized.

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Argentine president sets nat'l election in 2003

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina—President Eduardo Duhalde set a date for Argentina's next presidential election on Tuesday and unveiled an austerity budget he hopes will lift the country out of economic crisis by the time he leaves office late in 2003.

In a radio address, Duhalde reaffirmed his intent to serve out the term of Argentina's last popularly elected president, Fernando de la Rua, who resigned in December amid deadly street riots.

"We are going to call presidential elections for the second Sunday in September 2003," Duhalde declared. He said he hoped the economy will be in order when his successor takes over that December.

"I am the president of the transition, the transition of change," Duhalde said, insisting he had the backing of both major parties, his own Peronists and the opposition Radicals and that his government would rally the country.

Presidents normally serve four-year terms. Duhalde was appointed by Congress on Jan. 2 to finish De la Rua's term following a debate over how long he should serve, with some calling for a new popular election within 90 days.

Duhalde's government delivered its 2002 budget to Congress late Tuesday afternoon. The economic plan contains some $3.5 billion in spending cuts meant to tighten a gaping budget gap that topped $10 billion last year.

In a sign of Argentina's economic woes, the government said it expected the economy to contract by as much as 5 percent this year, extending nearly four years of recession. Inflation, the government predicted, will rise to 15 percent, a figure most Wall Street analysts say could quadruple by the end of the year.

Argentina's economic crisis, the worst in decades, has triggered the country's default on $141 billion in public debt, choked off factory production and consumer spending and left 18 percent of the work force idle.

At least 26 people were killed in the protests and riots that toppled De la Rua, and major demonstrations have been held this month, including a nationwide protest that turned violent in Buenos Aires.

On Tuesday, more than 500 unemployed Argentines blocked a key boulevard in southern Buenos Aires while some 5,000 marched on the presidential palace demanding jobs.

In his address, Duhalde urged the nation's 36 million people to remain calm while he tries to mend the economy and warned he would maintain order, saying otherwise "the next stop in Argentina's brutal slide would mean anarchy, chaos." **AP**

KBP: Helping Shape the Country's Future

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is set to induct today the officers and Board Directors for 2002 of the country's primary broadcast media organization, the *Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas* (KBP). The induction ceremonies will be held in Malacanang, to be attended by the representatives of the KBP's 153 member organizations operating radio and television stations throughout the country and other prominent guests.

The KBP faces the challenge of helping shape the future not just of the broadcast media but of the nation as it moves toward a new stage in its political and economic development. Broadcasting remains today as the major source of news, information, and entertainment. As such, it helps mold public opinion which in turn influences policy directions for the country.

The KBP was established in April of 1973. There were initially fifteen members, but within its first year practically all of radio and television stations in the Philippines had joined the broadcast organization to pursue the following objectives:

1. To elevate the standards of broadcast media in the Philippines
2. To enhance and develop broadcast media as an instrument of social change and to work for the national interest
3. To help in disseminate information to the public
4. To work with advertisers, advertising agencies, and other related groups to enhance the service of the broadcast industry

In 1991, a fifth objective was added by the association:

5. To serve as a vehicle for the preservation, promotion and propagation of the positive aspects of Filipino culture and heritage, including, but not limited to, the promotion of a truly Filipino language

The KBP has undertaken many major reforms in the broadcast media during its almost 29 years of existence. These reforms would not have been possible without the unity and cooperation of its members. Among them are:

- the formulation of the Radio and Television Code
- the formulation of the Technical Standards for AM, FM, and Television Stations
- the adoption of an Emergency Broadcast Manual
- the limitation on the number of commercials that may be aired within every hour
- the mandatory airing of development communication messages
- the airing of original Filipino compositions on radio
- the accreditation of announcers to insure they meet minimum standards for broadcast work
- the establishment of the Popular Music Foundation to encourage Filipino composers and performers
- the accreditation of advertising agencies that do business with the broadcast media
- the establishment of an internship program for mass communication students
- the implementation of training programs for broadcast personnel
- the promotion of better awareness of the interests of children

After the lifting of martial law in 1981, the KBP created its Standards Authority, a quasi-judicial body of the association charged with the enforcement of the KBP Radio and TV Code. The KBP Standards Authority today continues to hear cases against broadcasters and penalizes those found violating the Code. Complaints from the public against member stations and their individual broadcasters may be filed with the KBP Standards Authority.

After the People Power revolution toppled the Marcos government in 1986, the KBP continued to pursue its objectives under the government of President Corazon Aquino. Its efforts were focused on the continuation of the reforms and policies in the broadcast industry that it had initiated during its first 13 years. In the following years, the KBP helped its members obtain their legislative franchises from the new Congress insuring the continuity of their services. The KBP also worked closely with Congress on bills affecting the broadcast industry, including the Children Television Act in 1999 and the lifting of the political ad ban in 2000. The KBP has also been active in the international scene, working for the protection and promotion of broadcasters' rights in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) under the UN.

KBP's efforts in 2001 focused on raising the standards of performance in the broadcast industry. It is now engaged in the revision of the Radio and TV Code to make it more effective. To better monitor the performance of broadcasters on the air, it has entered into agreements with colleges and universities to monitor radio and television programs. The KBP has also sponsored several roundtable discussions to improve reporting on the Mindanao problem and other conflict and crisis situations. Last year, it initiated the Values Seminar Series, designed to bring broadcasters back to an awareness of their roles in shaping social values and contributing to political and economic stability.

This year the KBP will continue to focus on the promotion of ethical and professional standards in the broadcast media, on helping its members weather through the present economic difficulties, and on making broadcasting a more socially responsive and responsible medium. It will also address the issues of convergence of information, communications, and technology, particularly their impact on broadcasting in the Philippines. Backed by almost three decades of commitment and accomplishments, the KBP hopes to move the broadcast media into a more dynamic and positive role in building a better nation in this century.

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Final frontier open, but visa still required

PARIS—Space has been opened up to corporate suits, millionaire tourists and maybe even to gameshow winners, thanks to a landmark agreement among five partner agencies in the International Space Station (ISS).

They have agreed a common set of rules to approve amateur travelers to the ISS, an achievement that could have a resounding impact on commercial use of space.

What it means is this: If you are in good shape, are a team player and can cope with confinement, if you don't booze, take drugs, participate in filmed orgies or criminal dealings, then you have a relatively good chance of going into orbit.

Oh, there is that other thing—you must also demonstrate the ability, in conditions of normal gravity and one Earth atmosphere, to hand over a fat check to a willing space agency.

The deal is aimed at avoiding another blowup of the kind prompted last April, when US tycoon Dennis Tito paid Russia's cash-strapped space agency a reputed $20 million for an eight-day trip to the ISS.

The US National Aeronautics and Space Administration objected furiously. It felt the flight was an abuse of the ISS' cooperative status and a precedent for sending untrained rubberneckers to the station who could be a danger up there. **AFP**

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, February 7, 2002
4th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: **1 K 2:1-4, 10-12**
Gospel: **Mk 6:7-13**

Jesus called the Twelve to him and began to send them out two by two, giving them authority over evil spirits. And he ordered them to take nothing for the journey except a staff; no food, no bag, no money in their belts. They were to wear sandals and were not to take an extra tunic.

And he added, "In whatever house you are welcomed, stay there until you leave the place. If any place doesn't receive you and the people refuse to listen to you, leave after shaking the dust off your feet. It will be a testimony against them."

So they set out to proclaim that this was the time to repent. They drove out many demons and healed many sick people by anointing them.

Commentary

Jesus sends out the Twelve. Twelve, representing the twelve tribes of Israel, symbolizes that everybody among the people of God must be first a disciple and later on an apostle. Before, the Twelve accompanied Jesus; they were listening to him, learning from him, now Jesus sends them ahead of him. The Twelve were of very different personalities and they were to go two by two. They must preach from their universality and unity, two aspects that can be of help in our world today. If we accept and even celebrate our differences, and at the same time we show great concern for one another, the world will believe. We shouldn't trust in our talents, skills or means, but in the Lord. How many unnecessary and useless things we gather become an obstacle rather than a help to our mission!

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers. source: **pagasa**

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi30° Lo20°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 21° Lo 09°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 27° Lo 16°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 25° Lo 18°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 29° Lo 17°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 25° Lo 17°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 26° Lo 23°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 28° Lo 19°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 22°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 24°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 23°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/02/07/02

Jailed OFWs seek GMA help

By Jovelyn Reyes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), who were detained in Malaysia last year for illegal entry, have appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo to intervene for the immediate release of other Filipinos still languishing in Malaysian jails.

The appeal was made through Baguio Rep. Mauricio Domogan, House labor committee member, who met the group here last Friday.

Domogan promised to coordinate with the Philippine labor department and the Malaysian immigration for the release of the other detainees.

Dario Catalino, one of the detainees, said some of their companions had been missing after the Malaysian police raided their hotel on Dec. 7 last year.

He said a Baguio-based employment and travel agency recruited more than 20 workers from Cordillera and promised them high-paying jobs in Malaysia last year.

Catalino said the workers were taken to Thailand where they stayed for two days before they went to Malaysia last Oct. 30.

The National Bureau of Investigation arrested the manager of the agency last week after former jailed workers in Malaysia filed a complaint against her.

The manager is now detained at the Benguet provincial jail. However, her travel agency continues to operate. In fact, the agency had placed posters inviting tourists to travel to Europe for a minimal fee.

Last week, three people paid the agency P180,000 for working visas to Italy.

The same agency recruited 20 people to work in Malaysia.

Catalino said seven women workers, all from Barangay Asin here, were taken to Kuala Lumpur by their recruiter a day before they were jailed.

He identified them as Annie Rose Batuyog, Lorna Dungalon, Jason Fagkangan, Violeta Hiyadan, Junar Kinado, Jonalyne Pihoc and Betty Pinkisan.

"The last time I saw them was at our apartment in Taman Pelangi, Penang, a day before we were detained," he said.

The workers were released Jan. 11 after a month-long detention at the Juru immigration in Penang, Malaysia.

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HONDA

Sandiganbayan ruling pleases Marcos family

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAOAG CITY—The Sandiganbayan decision nullifying its earlier ruling that forfeited some $627 million in Swiss deposits in favor of the government has confirmed the Marcoses' position that the funds were lawfully acquired by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and his wife Imelda.

Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. made this statement on Wednesday, saying the Marcos family felt "vindicated" and "relieved" over the anti-graft court's decision.

"Naturally, we are all very pleased and relieved. We feel vindicated," the young Marcos said.

"For 16 years, our critics have been accusing my father, my mother and the Marcos family about how the money has been stolen. But when it comes to the bar of justice, it is clear that all their pronouncements are all politically motivated and have nothing to do with justice or truth or honesty or nationalism," he said.

Marcos also described the Sandiganbayan reversal as an indication of "who has been lying all along."

"The Filipino people now can see who has been lying to them for 16 years. It is not the Marcos family," he said.

The anti-graft court said the funds could not be turned over to the government until the Presidential Commission on Good Government has shown proof that it belongs to the Marcoses and not to the five Swiss foundations under whose names the money was deposited.

Until such proofs have been presented, the Sandiganbayan said the foundations must be presumed owners of the funds.

While he acknowledges that the decision has been made in favor of the Marcos family, Marcos said the case is not yet over because the family's critics would try to exert all efforts to reverse the ruling.

"I am sure they will try all possible legal methods that they know to change the situation. We will see," he said.

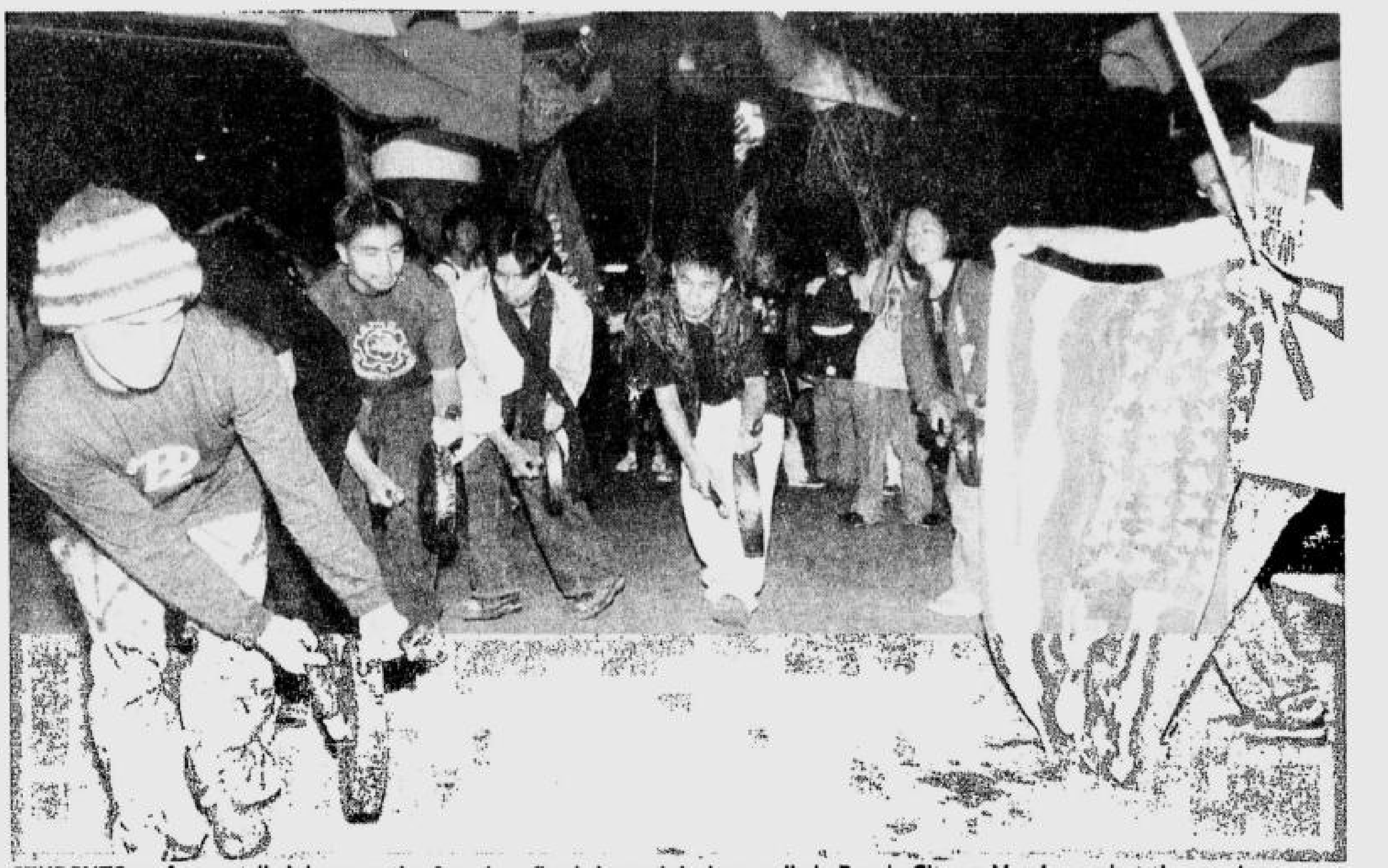
Marcos, however, did not disclose what legal moves they will take next as a result of the anti-graft court's latest decision.

Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena had described as incorrect the position he took on Sept. 19, 2000, declaring that the money was unlawfully acquired by Marcos and his wife during his 20-year regime.

In that ruling, the Sandiganbayan said the Swiss accounts represented ill-gotten wealth because the money far exceeded the combined salaries of the Marcos couple from 1966 to 1986.

The couple, according to court records, only had a combined salary of P2,319,583 or $304,372 from 1966 to February 1986.

The Marcoses have admitted in court that the late dictator had received a total salary of only P1.57 million during his presidency while Imelda, during her stint as minister of human settlements, received P718,750 from 1976 to 1985.



STUDENTS perform a tribal dance as the American flag is burned during a rally in Baguio City on Monday against the ongoing military exercises of Filipino and American soldiers.

E.V.ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Church officials, artists to educate people on sovereignty, war exercises

BAGUIO CITY—Church and school officials vowed to educate the people on the word "sovereignty" as the "Balikatan 02-1" military exercises between Filipino and American troops started last week.

Bishop Allan Ray Sarte of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines-Northern Luzon said they would include in their sermon the meaning of sovereignty for Filipinos.

This is part of the nationwide educational campaign of the UCCP, which has some one million church members, he said.

"The US war games are neither help nor gain, but shame and disgrace. This is what the people should know so they can assert their right to sovereignty," Sarte told reporters in a forum here on Wednesday.

He said: "The problem is, we always depend on US (although) we have already celebrated the centennial. We should remember our history on how the Spanish colonizers sold us to the American government for P20,000. US owes us," Sarte said.

Artist and musician Jess Santiago has written songs about national patrimony and sovereignty because of the presence of American troops in the country.

"We should assert our national sovereignty as a citizen of a country that is supposed to be independent. We have already gotten rid of the US, why is it that we always call them back here?" Santiago asked.

School officials will also discuss the sovereignty issue with their students, according to Prof. Delfin Tolentino Jr. of the University of the Philippines College Baguio.

"This semester, I am tackling (Jose) Rizal who wrote a lot about national consciousness and the emancipation from the colonial oppression. We even discussed sovereignty last week during the height of the rallies against American troops. In history, I cannot imagine the class discussing colonialism without bringing up the issue on national sovereignty," Tolentino, who teaches literature, Philippine Institution and humanities, said.

Voltaire Tupaz, secretary general of the Tongtongan Ti Umili, said sovereignty may sound big to most people but he said they are determined to mount an aggressive campaign to make ordinary Filipinos understand what the word meant.

"We want them to understand it because it is their life which is at stake," Tupaz said. ***Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

NPA rebels attack Aurora police post

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Communist rebels attacked a police detachment in Aurora province on Tuesday, seriously wounding a militiaman, a radio report received here on Wednesday said.

Police did not identify which guerrilla group attacked the Dimani detachment at Barangay Villa in Ma. Aurora town. The report said "a group of undetermined number of local communists with unknown leader" opened fire at the detachment.

The exchange of gunfire lasted three minutes, it said.

Although skirmishes between government troops and rebels were frequent in Aurora, Tuesday's incident was the first attack on a police detachment there this year.

Militiaman Jerick Ritual was hit in the abdomen, right ankle and chin during the clash, the report said. He was taken to a hospital in Cabanatuan City.

The rebels fled toward Sitio Malipatong, also in the town. Members of the 301st Provincial Mobile Group of the Philippine National Police were sent to reinforce pursuit operations, the report said.

Also in Camp Olivas on Wednesday, Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, Central Luzon police chief, ordered provincial directors in the region, as well as in Aurora, to do "an assessment on the efforts of peace process" in their areas.

Berroya, following a Feb. 1 memorandum from national police officials, made the order on the heels of the seven-month long recess in the peace talks between the government and the Communist Party of the Philippines. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

MNLF men, gov't troops sing for peace in South

By Aquiles Z. Zonio
PDI Mindanao Bureau

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Imagine this: Members of the Moro National Liberation Front, soldiers, policemen, firemen and jail guards in one singing contest.

To help promote peace in a strife-torn island of Mindanao, GMA Super Radyo launched a radio singing competition dubbed "Singing for Peace in Mindanao."

The competition, which kicked off two weeks ago, will wind up in the grand finals on Feb. 25.

Hannibal Guilaran, manager of GMA Super Radyo, told the INQUIRER that big prizes are up for grabs for the winners.

During the elimination round, first- and second-prize winners get P1,500 and P1,000, respectively. At the grand finals, the champion will take home P25,000 cash prize and a trophy.

The second-prize winner will get P20,000 and a trophy, while the third-placer will pocket P10,000 and a trophy.

Participants in the competition will come from various branches of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, police department, Bureau of Fire Protection and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, as well as from the MNLF.

"This project aims to provide wholesome entertainment, as well as to foster harmony and camaraderie among various peace-keeping forces of the government and the community," Guilaran said.

Guilaran also hoped that the singing competition would help add flare and fun to the week-long founding anniversary of General Santos on Feb. 23 to 27.

Business feud, robbery seen in killing

BAGABAG, Nueva Vizcaya—Police are looking into either business grudge or robbery as the possible motive of the killing of a truck driver and his helper here early Sunday.

The victims' employer escaped from their attackers by jumping out of their vehicle.

The bullet-riddled bodies of Arturo Tolentino, 33, and Jerome Tolentino, 17, were found late Sunday along a dirt road at Sitio Dumayop in Barangay Baretbet here.

Insp. Zaidee Daculug, Bagabag police chief, said they were looking for the identity of Tolentino's former employer, who might have an ax to grind against the victims.

"He (former employer) was accusing Tolentino of being responsible for the holdup that struck him recently," Daculug said.

After being dismissed as a driver, Tolentino reportedly worked for a rival company and transacted business with his former employer's clients.

Robbery may also be a motive, Daculug said, as the victims lost P15,000 in cash.

The victims' present employer, feed trader Federico de la Vega, told police that they were on their way to deliver duck feeds in Isabela aboard his delivery truck when they were flagged down by six men along the national highway in Barangay Oriwong in Diadi town.

Three of the assailants then commandeered the truck and proceeded to Cordon town. They were tailed by a maroon Tamaraw FX.

But as they approached a police checkpoint in Barangay Kakilingan in Cordon, the convoy stopped, and the men ordered De la Vega and his two workers to transfer to the Tamaraw FX.

The group then turned around, leaving behind De la Vega's truck.

Along the way, their leader were constantly getting instructions through a cellular phone from someone he addressed as "boss," De la Vega said.

"I remember the last thing they were talking about was taking us to a safe house," he said.

Upon reaching Sitio Dumayop, De la Vega said he sensed danger when they entered a dirt road and stopped about 500 meters from the national highway.

After hearing the sound of guns getting cocked, De la Vega jumped out of the vehicle and scampered away under cover of darkness, which prompted the armed men to fire at him. Moments later, he heard more gunshots, De la Vega said. ***Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

UP agency proposes suspension of Bolinao fish pen operations

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—The University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute said the waters of Bolinao town, which were hit by massive fish kills last week, could still recover if the operations of fish pens and cages "are discontinued, at least for the time being."

The UPMSI traced the fish kills to the proliferation of fish structures in the town that led to *phytoplankton* bloom and low dissolved oxygen (DO) in the town's waters.

"The low DO levels, and quite likely, the *phytoplankton* bloom may be attributed principally to the proliferation of fish cages and fish pens in the municipal waters of Bolinao," the UPMSI said in a statement.

Prof. Nemesio Montaño, UPMSI deputy head, said they had no specific time frame as to how long the waters of Bolinao can recover from the pollution it suffered from the uncontrolled aquaculture industry.

He said the sea's recovery would depend on how fast it can flush out all the *phytoplankton* that bloomed in the area because of too much organic matter.

"We don't know yet. There is too much *phytoplankton* and because of the neap tide (slow tidal currents), the water hardly (flows) into the sea," he said.

The UPMSI said its initial laboratory tests showed that the fish kill coincided with a bloom of a *phytoplankton* identified as *Prorocentrum minimum* (*P. minimum*) reported to be associated with stagnant water.

"It must be noted that this is the first time that a *P. minimum* bloom occurred in the Philippines," the statement said.

Montaño said they asked local officials to regulate the aquaculture activities in the town "or else, the fish kill will recur."

"It has been recognized in the Bolinao municipal fisheries ordinance that sustainable aquaculture can be pursued only if regulated numbers of structures are established in particular zones. At present, these structures have far exceeded the numbers set in the ordinance," the UPMSI statement said.

Montaño said that if the pollution in Bolinao continued, the UPMSI would have no choice but to relocate its marine laboratory to a clean area.

The water inflow gates from the sea to the UPMSI's Bolinao Marine Laboratory (BML) have been closed since last week because the water was too polluted and smelly, he said.

While the water flowing into the research areas is filtered, it was not enough to rid of the pollution and the odor of ammonia, he added.

Researchers have to aerate the water at the research areas to maintain its quality.

All researches of the laboratory stopped since the fish kill started, Montaño said.

"We're just maintaining the species we are researching on," he noted. The BML is conducting research on giant clams, abalone, sea urchins, top shells, sea cucumber and seaweed.

Montaño said the giant clams at the BML's ocean nursery near the Silaqui Island had not yet been affected by the pollution.

BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

BIG FISH

Tuna, a favorite among those fond of "kinilaw" or "sugba," are being moved by pushcart to fish stalls at a market in Davao City. Most of the tuna sold in the city come from General Santos City, Southern Mindanao's tuna capital.

Ambush irks Sagada folk

SAGADA, Mt. Province—The police failure to investigate the Jan. 27 attack on a passenger bus here and produce a suspect has drawn the ire of residents in this tourist town and in nearby Besao.

Sagada Mayor Thomas Killip said the ambush could be the work of bandits who wanted to either terrorize or hold up the passengers.

"These bandits just sprayed bullets at the bus and this is an act that should be condemned. What good would you get from doing that?" he asked.

No one among the 10 passengers was hurt. But the bus had eight bullet holes. A police report indicated that the bullets were fired from M-14 and M-16 rifles.

Killip said the municipal council was seeking an investigation of the attack.

Residents said this was not the first time that an ambush took place in the village.

"But who did the ambush and for what purpose is a mystery to us especially when the NPA has come out with a disclaimer," they said. ***Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Surgeon killed in front of hospital

By N. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—A surgeon was shot dead in front of the Antique Provincial Hospital on Tuesday night, minutes after he performed an emergency surgery on a patient.

Carlito Moleño, 42, had a bullet wound below the left ear inflicted by an unidentified man at close range at about 7:30 p.m. inside the compound of the Angel Salazar Memorial General Hospital in the capital town of San Jose.

His remains were brought to the Solania Funeral Homes in San Jose.

Moleño was about to leave the hospital in his jeep when the gunman, wearing a cap and denim jacket, came and shot him with a 9-mm pistol, a report of the Antique police said.

The doctor had just performed an appendectomy on a patient at the government-run hospital, around 700 meters from the San Jose police.

After the shooting, the gunman "casually" walked toward his companion who was waiting on board a motorcycle, about 50 meters from the hospital. They fled toward the northern part of Antique.

The two passed through a police checkpoint in Belison town, 20 km north of San Jose despite warning shots fired by policemen. They eluded lawmen after a brief chase.

Police found a 135-cc Yamaha motorcycle, believed to be the getaway vehicle, in Barangay Boroc-Boroc, Belison, at about 10 a.m. yesterday.

Ex-hospital chief slain

MOLAVE, Zamboanga del Sur—Unidentified gunmen on Saturday killed a physician earlier linked to a P35-million medicine scandal.

Dr. Michael Espina, 45, was shot five times in the body and died.

His wife, Vice Mayor Lorna Espina of Mahayag town, has sought the help of the National Bureau of Investigation.

SPO4 Francisco Ortiz, town police intelligence and investigation chief, said Espina had just come from a tennis court and was about to board his Pajero when he was shot.

Witnesses said the gunmen casually walked away and fled on a black motorcycle toward Sitio Sandal in Barangay San Isidro, Mahayag.

The victim was ousted as chief of the Margosatubig Regional Hospital in Margosatubig town after the May elections last year.

His replacement, Dr. Edgar Allan Bugtai, sought the help of the Commission on Audit in investigating alleged irregularities involving overpricing and "ghost" delivery of medicines and equipment for the hospital during Espina's term.
Hernan de la Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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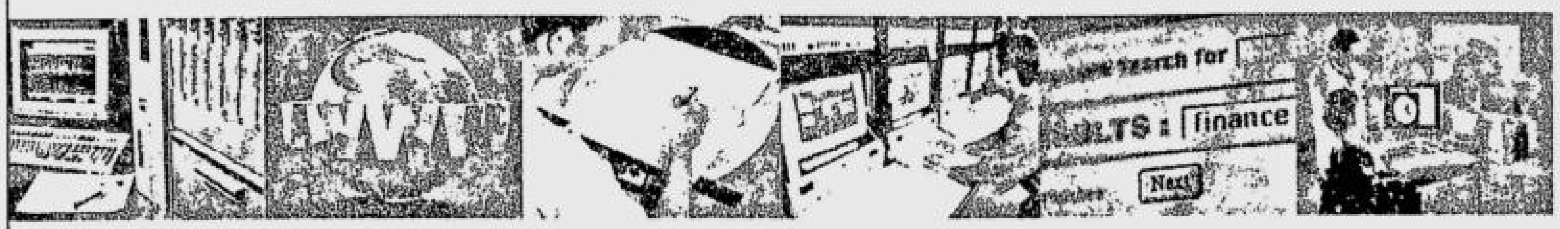

7 - 9 February 2002
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Pasay City, Metro Manila

Schedule of Events

Special Events Area

07 February

1000	Opening Ceremony
1100-1200	Video Conference with Davao and Cebu
1300-1400	BETP's Tradeline Launching
1400-1500	Innovative Solution: Landline Messaging and Information System- A New Concept by Ideawurx
1500-1600	Smart Card by Infinit-e Asia
1600-1700	Supplier Enablement for Commerce Server 2002 by Stag Phils.
1700-2000	Digital Filipino's Networking Night

08 February

1100-1200	The Paradigm Shift: Call Centering Philippines by Global Call International
1300-1400	NextGen Network Solutions by Bell Telecom
1400-1500	KRM for Call Centers by C Quadrant
1500-1600	Enhancing Outsourcing Partnerships Through VideoConferencing by MOSCOM
1600-1700	The Digital Haven by Ayala Port

09 February

1000-1100	"Open Source: Most Bang for the Buck" by IT Intl.
1300-1400	NGC Animation
1400-1500	National IT Search Launching by DOST
1500-1600	DLSU- St. Benilde Diploma Course Launching

Seminar Room A

07 February

1300-1400	The Paradigm Shift: Call Centering Philippines by Global Call International
1400-1500	DBP Financing Program
1500-1600	Investment Seminar by BOI & PEZA
1600-1700	The Digital Haven by Ayala Port
1700-1800	Titanium Technologies

08 February

1100-1200	Eastern Telecom
1300-1400	Dot Enable
1600-1800	ITECC Plenary Meeting

09 February

1000-1100	Digital Filipino's CMM Briefing
1100-1300	E-Commerce for SMEs by Alfox Group of Cos.
1300-1400	Genetic Computers

Seminar Room B

07 February

1300-1700	Government IT Projects Seminar By National Computer Center

08 February

1000-1100	System Generators Phils.
1100-1200	DTSI's Contact Center Solutions
1200-1300	ERIC Business Solutions for the Enterprise by Jupiter Systems
1300-1400	The Original Haven by Ayala Port
1400-1600	Report on the State of the Automation of the 2004 Elections by NAMFREL
1600-1700	FindMe LBS
1700-1800	Omega Presentation by Soluziona.

09 February

1000-1100	Corporate E-mail and Web Text by Pinoymail
1100-1200	Search Engine Applications, My Space and SMS Solutions by Intergate
1300-1400	Developing a Web-based Product Catalogue by CIM Technologies
1400-1500	How to Create High Impact presentations using Macromedia Flash 5 by Artfarm Asia (w/fee)

Seminar Room C

07-09 February

1000-1700	IT Outsourcing Seminar by Fiera de Manila

Seminar Room D

08 February

1000-1100	DBM Presentation
1100-1200	Ecommsite Inc.
1300-1400	How to create High Impact Presentations Using Macromedia Flash 5 by Artfarm (w/fee)
1400-1500	Radix System Services Corp.
1500-1600	Strategic Outsourcing... Not only for the Big Boys by Multiserv
1600-1700	Gold Mine Front Office by Mannasoft

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GMA defers signing of TOR 'to make sure it's correct'

From page A1

movie stars, film directors and writers expressing solidarity with a newly formed coalition called "Out Now!"

At the coalition's launch yesterday at the University of the Philippines, they signed a unity statement calling on the administration to make public the exercise plan and the TOR of the Balikatan, including the mission, situation, objectives, type of training exercise, duration, area, forces, concept of training and logistics involved.

"In particular, we want to know the role of the US forces in such exercises," they said.

Among the signatories were film directors Carlitos Siguion Reyna, Joel Lamangan, Gil Portes and Mel Chionglo; actress Isabel Lopez; writers Bibeth Orteza and Jose F. Lacaba; and UP professor and Ramon Magsaysay Awardee Bienvenido Lumbera.

The convenors of Out Now! also demanded that RP-US relations, including the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT) and Military Assistance Agreement (MAA), be reviewed to prevent US armed intervention in Philippine affairs.

Precise wording

The source at the Palace said the Department of Foreign Affairs had insisted on precise wording in the TOR "to play safe and to ensure that Filipinos will have control over not only American personnel but also their arms and equipment during the Balikatan."

"In diplomacy, the wording much be precise," the source said. "When you have authority over a soldier, you can tell him, for example, 'Give me your gun,' or 'Give me your night goggles.'"

Tiglao gave a hint of the conflict in his press briefing Tuesday when he was asked to comment on the supposed statements of US soldiers that they were not duty-bound to obey Filipino commanders.

"That's it," Tiglao said Tuesday. "I think what you're referring to is the term 'authority,' but in this case, under their rules, an American soldier can't be under the authority of a foreign power. It's a legal question for them."

According to National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, US Air Force Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster and Philippine Marines Brig. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio may be the co-training directors of the Balikatan, but the chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines will have "control" over the exercise.

"The terms of reference are clear . . . the exercise will be implemented jointly by RP-US exercise co-directors under the direction of the AFP chief of staff," Golez said over radio dzRH.

"In no instance will US forces operate independently during field training exercises," he added. "It's clear that the authority of the AFP unit commander cannot be countermanded."

Tactical situation

The President said she did not expect any contentious issue to prevent a concurrence on the TOR, including the question on the relationship between the two military forces.

"When they are there in the jungle, that is a tactical situation so the Filipino commander is going to be in charge," she said.

The President also expressed hope that the Supreme Court would uphold the constitutionality of Balikatan: "I'm hopeful because we're doing the right thing, and the Supreme Court has the record of upholding the right thing."

The TOR was endorsed to Ms Macapagal after the Cabinet oversight committee went over it Tuesday night.

Earlier on that day, Guingona said the Philippine side would soon confer with its American counterpart on the matter. The Vice President will sign the document along with US State Secretary Colin Powell.

The TOR allows American troops to fire their weapons in self-defense. Sen. Rodolfo Biazon has raised fears that the United States might take unilateral action should its commanders deem that local soldiers are not adequately protecting US forces.

But Guingona, who had earlier opposed the Balikatan, yesterday said "everything has been resolved."

"The President and I have talked about my reservations, and these have been addressed already," he said.

DFA spokesperson Victoriano Lecaros said the Vice President's opposition had been based on two major issues—"the length of time of the exercise and the combat role of the US troops."

Lecaros said the duration of the training period had been cut from one year to six months.

"As for the combat role of the US troops, the President agreed that they will take an advisory role, and (she) even announced that they would never be involved in combat operations," Lecaros said.

Guingona said the President had asked him to take an "active role in the monitoring and implementation of the Balikatan.

He said the VFA Commission, which he chairs, would "look out for the interest of the country."

The commission is mandated to monitor the compliance of US and Philippine troops with the intent of the VFA.

Guingona said that preparations were proceeding smoothly, and that he foresaw no problem in the upcoming exercise.

He said "the TOR will be mutually beneficial to the US and the Philippine governments because both sides will discuss and approve it."

Combat operations

But Out Now! is not convinced.

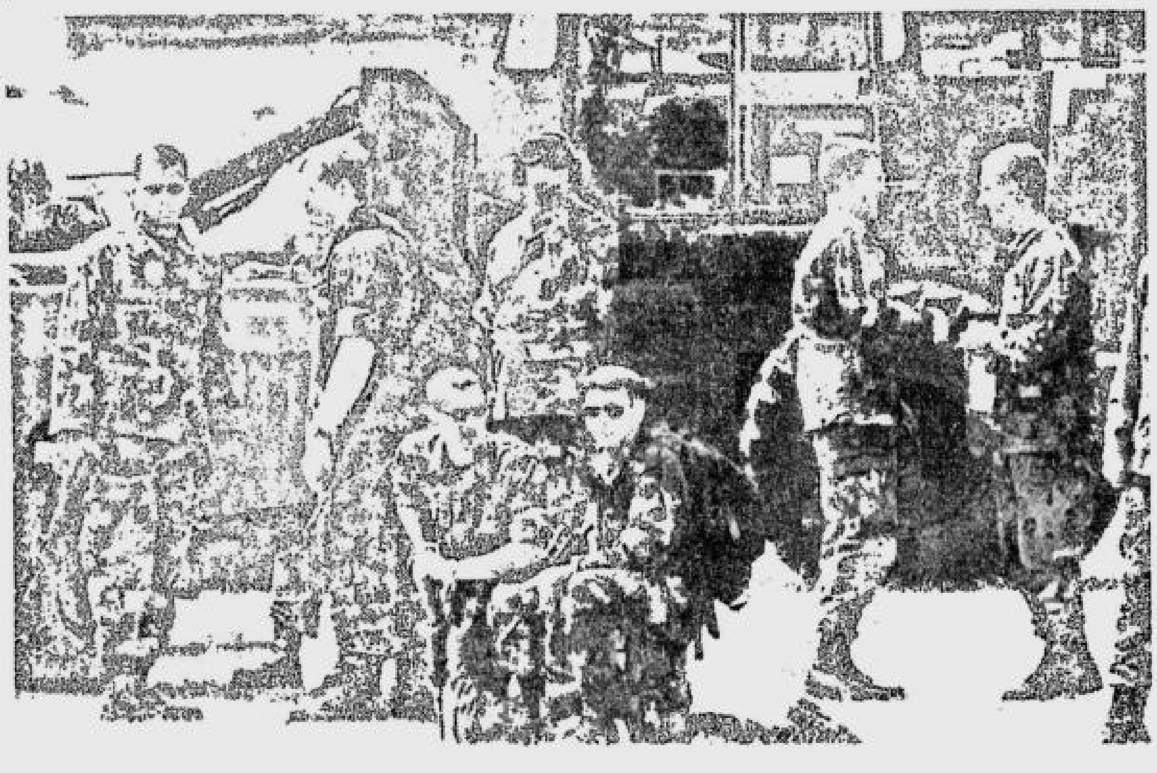
According to the new coalition:

- Activities under Balikatan 02-01 are not military exercises but are more in the nature of joint combat operations. US troops will stay for prolonged periods, will participate in military operations, and may even engage in unilateral action.
- These activities are beyond the scope of the 1951 MDT. Thus, the Balikatan violates the constitutional ban on the entry of foreign troops and facilities unless under a treaty duly recognized by both countries. Moreover, the 1999 VFA itself does not allow the participation of US troops in combat operations.
- The Balikatan was secretly planned and executed, with normal procedures and protocols short-circuited or ignored outright. It was launched last Jan. 31 without a definite TOR.

Out Now! said that "pending a satisfactory resolution of these issues, Balikatan 02-01 should be suspended and US troops immediately pulled out, especially from Zamboanga and Basilan."

The coalition is composed of 75 prominent individuals, 54 people's organizations, and three regional and three sectoral alliances, making it the biggest assembly of groups and individuals opposing US military presence in the Philippines.

Its convenors are Sr. Mary John Mananzan of St. Scholastica's College; Most Rev. Deogracias Iñiguez Jr., DD, vice chair of the Episcopal Commission on Ecumenical Affairs of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines; Junk VFA Movement spokesperson Danilo Vizmanos, a former AFP inspector general; and Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo.



ON ALERT, fully armed US soldiers secure Edwin Andrews Air Base as a C-130 takes off with US Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster on board. DENNIS SABANGAN

ISABELA • Vice Ve

MUSLIM residents in Basilan, the majority opposing American presence in their island province, are on their way to the mosque, perhaps to implore Allah to make the US soldiers go away. DENNIS SABANGAN

US senators question troop deployment in RP

THE DEPLOYMENT of US troops in the Philippines, the largest overseas since the US-led campaign in Afghanistan, was questioned by the democrats in the US Senate on Tuesday during a hearing on President George W. Bush's 2003 budget plan.

Sen. Carl Levin, chair of the US Senate armed services committee, asked Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and the chair of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Richard Myers, what the US mission was in the Philippines.

"This is not an operation like you saw in Afghanistan," Myers said. "This is assistance, and this is training."

Under the Balikatan, which has met with vehement opposition from various sectors in the Philippines, US forces will train Filipino soldiers in their fight against the Abu Sayyaf, which Washington has linked to Osama Bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

The Abu Sayyaf has been holding hostages including American missionaries Martin and Garcia Burnham in Basilan.

In harm's way

At one point during the budget hearing, Myers acknowledged that it was "absolutely possible" American troops would get in harm's way in the Philippines, where US forces are set to take part in the controversial RP-US Balikatan 02-1.

"Is it possible that our forces will come in harm's way?" Myers said. "I think the answer to that has to be, 'It's absolutely possible.' This is a very dangerous group. They have kidnapped many people . . . they have beheaded people."

Democrats in the Senate also questioned whether Bush's defense budget would give him too much room to expand the war on terrorism without consulting the US Congress.

Levin asked about the Pentagon's plans for a proposed $10-billion reserve fund for unspecified future war needs.

"Could those funds be used for any activity that (Bush) or you decided to use them for . . . without further authorization or action from Congress?" Levin asked Rumsfeld.

$1.8-B monthly war budget

Levin noted that the US Congress generally did not appropriate money in advance for unidentified military operations.

Rumsfeld noted that the United States was spending $1.8 billion a month for the war on terrorism abroad and heightened security at home since the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

US soldiers mingle with natives, draw curious crowds

From page A1

thickly muscled officers.

Eating as culture

"Eating is one way of understanding the culture of a place," the lieutenant told Reuters.

He peered into cauldrons of local dishes, and his face lit up in a smile.

He ordered a helping of cow's innards and sat down with his two buddies at a long, roughly hewn wooden table. Nearby, a television set showed the Filipino dance group Sex Bomb grinding their hips to the throb of pop music.

Young waitresses laid down the trays of food. A female reporter took a seat beside the lieutenant.

"The moment a girl sits beside me, I know something is going on . . . Are you hiding a microphone under the table?" he said as laughter erupted around the table.

Cheers, jeers

Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster arrived at the city hall to pay a call on local officials amid heavy security, and was met by cheering employees, many of them wearing T-shirts emblazoned with the US flag and the words "I Love USA."

Zamboanga City Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat ordered the playing of the US anthem during the visit.

He said US troops deployed in Southern Philippines were on a limited mission to aid their hosts and did not plan a permanent stay. "We intend to come here as good citizens and good neighbors," said Wurster, chief of the US Pacific Command special forces.

Wurster also allayed fears by protesters that Washington could be plotting to restore its military bases in the Philippines.

"Let me state this categorically. The United States has no interest in establishing military bases in the Philippines," he said. "When we leave, I want you to be happy," he said, urging the media to give the mission "a fair shake."

Several groups are challenging the basis for the deployment of at least 600 US troops for up to six months in guerrilla zones in Mindanao, where officially they would train and advise Filipino troops.

The Supreme Court is set to hear later this month a petition to stop the Balikatan, which the administration of President Macapagal considers a part of annual military exercises between the two allies.

Wurster said he was "tremendously encouraged by the pronouncement of your President in support of the world's fight against terrorism."

He said rescuing the Abu Sayyaf hostages was "the responsibility of the Philippine government, but we will provide them any assistance that will help them in the operations."

In Isabela City, capital of Basilan, most of the Christian residents interviewed by Reuters seemed to regard the Americans as messiahs. But for a few exceptions, Muslims were wary of the US troops.

Christian businessman Bienvenido Tan will cheer when the Balikatan starts. A staunch US supporter, the 70-year-old said he might well march in the streets waving the Stars and Stripes.

But jewelry shop owner Hja Sheng, a Muslim, will certainly not. "What will become of us? Another Afghanistan?" Sheng said.

Isabela is home to about 50,000 Christians and 30,000 Muslims.

In his dimly lit shop, Tan spoke as though he could hear the pounding of war drums.

"If I were still young, I'll join the Americans to fight the Abu Sayyaf," he told Reuters. "The people are already suffering from those bandits. We are always under threat of attack."

Tan said people in Manila did not understand the ordeal Basilan was going through as a result of the Abu Sayyaf's kidnap-for-ransom activities.

"Which do you prefer? The Americans or the Abu Sayyaf?" he said, adding:

"It would even be better if the Americans came to fight. I am 101 percent for the Americans!"

Officially, the Americans will only train Filipinos and not engage in combat. But they can fire if attacked.

And this is what worries jeweler Sheng.

"If something happens to the Americans and they retaliate, there's going to be war. They might also bomb Basilan. Then we will all suffer," he said.

That is also Muslim trader Ismail Abdullah's fear: "That is scary, that is what frightens us."

But Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar said 80 percent of Basilan supported the coming of US troops.

It was the Americans who liberated the island from the Japanese during World War II, said Akbar, who fought for more than 20 years alongside the once-separatist Moro National Liberation Front.

"The Japanese were worse than the Abu Sayyaf. The Americans rescued Basilan from the torment of the Japanese," he said. ***Reports from AP, AFP, Reuters***

Doctor, businesswoman rescued . . .

From page A1

a.m. on Wednesday in Maitum, Cotobato City.

The kidnapping followed a brief gunfight between lawmen and Agustin's abductors in a marshy area near the towns of Datu Piang and Kabuntalan in Maguindanao.

Maj. Juieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Battalion, said the kidnappers fled their hideout and abandoned Agustin when they sensed lawmen were closing in.

No one was injured in the gunfight at the Liguasan Marsh, a swampland often used as sanctuary by bandits.

Ando said Agustin, 43, appeared "very weak" when soldiers of the 27th Infantry Batallion and policemen of the anti-kidnapping Task Force Sagittarius recovered her.

Cotabato Mayor Muslimin Sema said Agustin was taken to the Cotabato Medical and Specialist Hospital, which she and her husband Dr. Agustin own.

The kidnappers snatched Agustin in front of her home in Cotabato City.

Soldiers and police caught up with the kidnappers, killed three of them and captured another. But Agustin was wounded on the left foot by a stray bullet, Ando said.

He said the family later received a P10-million ransom demand.

On Wednesday, however, Ando denied rumors that Agustin's husband paid the kidnappers P3 million at an undisclosed place in Maguindanao three days before his wife was rescued.

"No ransom was paid, and it was through our efforts that she was rescued," Ando said.

Mayor Sema told newsmen that Agustin was resting and didn't want to be interviewed.

A few hours after Agustin was rescued, another group of kidnappers struck in South Cotabato.

Magsino, an Army brigade commander based in General Santos City, said the kidnapping of Jae and Belonio was reported to the police by their driver-bodyguard, Edgar Enriquez, shortly after the gunmen let him go.

"The two businessmen had a transaction in Palembang, Sultan Kudarat, but the trouble is they did not coordinate with us," Magsino said.

The brigade commander said he had sent a rescue team to track down the kidnappers.

Camp Olivas

In Camp Olivas, Pampanga, police announced yesterday that businesswoman Amelita Yang Cesar, 51, was rescued by agents of the National Anti-Kidnap-for Ransom Task Force (Naktaf) in Capas, Tarlac on Feb. 1.

Authroties, however, refused to comment on reports that Cesar's family paid the kidnappers P800,000.

Four gunmen wearing bonnets seized Cesar on Jan. 31 as she was preparing the payroll at the NC Poultry Farms in Barangay Pulong Cacutod, Angeles City.

The gunmen also fled with P40,000 in payroll money.

PNP Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, Naktaf chief, presented three of the suspected kidnappers to the media yesterday.

They were identified as Julian Panes, 49, truck driver; Rustico Pamintuan, 28, farmer; and his live-in partner, Luz Patinga-Gonzales, 52, a club owner.

A complaint of robbery and abduction has been filed in the Department of Justice against the three suspect.

Six of their alleged accomplices are still at large.

During a series of raids in Capas, police also recovered the Mitsubishi Canter van that was allegedly used in the kidnapping.

Ebdane said the suspects belonged to "a fly-by-night kidnap group" that wanted to cash in on the highly lucrative crime.

Alarming

Anti-crime groups, however, are alarmed.

"It's disturbing. The kidnapping incidents are happening one after the other," Teresita Ang-See of the Citizen's Action Against Crime (CAAC) said in a phone interview. ***Reports from Edwin O. Fernandez, Rosa-May de Guzman, Anthony S. Allada and Aquiles Z. Sonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Tonette Orejas, Jun Malig and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk; and TJ Burgonio in Manila***

'I pray for some . . .

From page A1

Jones, which was shown to Reuters in the southern city of Zamboanga.

Her husband, Martin, wrote to his younger son Zachariah: "Zach, wish we could go out and toss the pigskin, or whatever you would like.

"I just want to be with you. I was gone away too much before this ever happened. I am praying that God will still give us some more good times together."

The three-page letter, written partly by Martin and partly by Gracia, was dated Jan. 26. It was brought to Zamboanga by an intermediary to be handed over to the Burnhams' family.

The Burnhams were celebrating their 18th wedding anniversary last May on the resort island of Dos Palmas when they were kidnapped by Abu Sayyaf guerrillas. Within a few days they were brought to the island province of Basilan, off Zamboanga, which is a group stronghold.

Since then, they and other hostages have been moving constantly in the hills and ravines of Basilan, dodging military pursuit, braving mortar and automatic weapons fire and enduring the heat, humidity, leeches and mosquitoes.

"Our days seem to be either exhausting or boring," Martin Burnham wrote.

Only the Burnhams and a local nurse are now in captivity.

Other hostages have been freed, in exchange for ransom, or beheaded. A third American, Californian Guillermo Sobero, was one of those killed.

The Burnhams, who are from Wichita, Kansas, have been with the New Tribes Mission in the Philippines since 1986.

"The (Abu Sayyaf) group wants you to know that we will not be released without some consequences," Gracia Burnham said in the letter.

"Their losses have been great and they will never just give us up. They are willing to take a ransom and they need to arm themselves for the fight (for an independent Muslim homeland)."

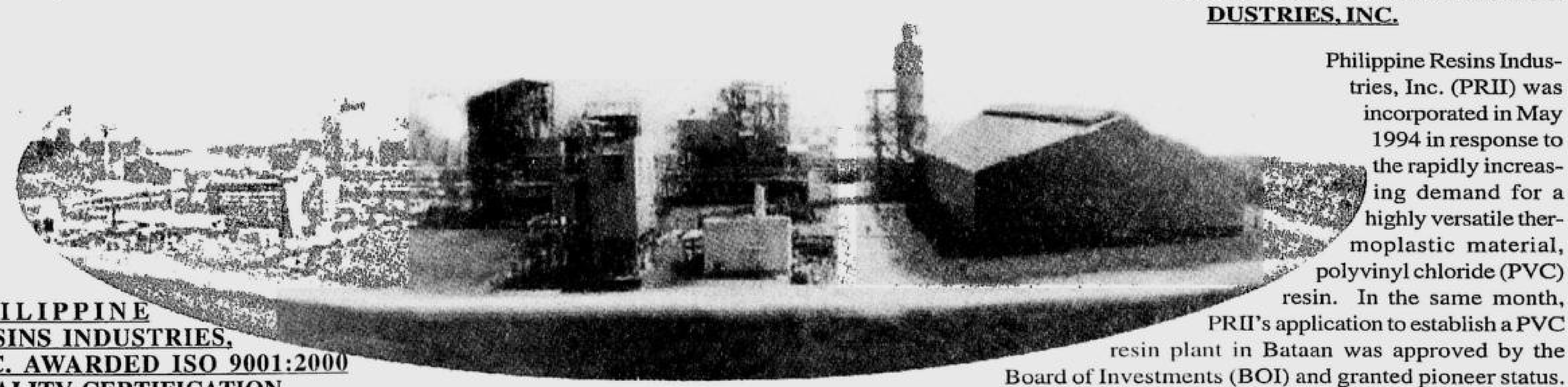
The letter also asks for medicine, chocolate, books and toiletries.

The Abu Sayyaf claims to be fighting for an independent homeland in the South but seems to concentrate on kidnap for ransom. A local television network said the guerrillas are demanding $2 million for the Burnhams. **Reuters**

PHILIPPINE RESINS INDUSTRIES, INC.

a World-Class Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Resin Manufacturing Company is now

ISO 9001:2000 CERTIFIED



PHILIPPINE RESINS INDUSTRIES, INC. AWARDED ISO 9001:2000 QUALITY CERTIFICATION

After successfully meeting all systems criteria and quality requirements of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), Philippine Resins Industries, Inc. (PRII), the country's largest manufacturer of Polyvinyl Chloride resins, was recently awarded **ISO 9001:2000 Quality Certification (UKAS registration)** by the Governing Board of Certification International Philippines, Inc. Effective **November 20, 2001**, the company was awarded certification with the following scope: ***"Manufacture of Petrochemical Products – Suspension Type Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Resins"***. The symbolic awarding of the certificate was done last January 8, 2002 at the company's plant site in Mariveles, Bataan.

Awarding of the ISO 9001:2000 Certificate was simply the culmination of extensive and rigorous inspections conducted on the company's processes and procedures by Certification International Philippines, Inc, an internationally recognized standards registrar. ISO 9001 Certification assures all processes addressing the company's planning, development, production, sales, distribution, and servicing of its products comply with the Quality Management System (QMS) standards established by the prestigious International Organization for Standardization. The certification, thus, provides confidence that the company's products are manufactured and delivered under a quality system that has been objectively recognized as among the best in the world.

PRII Management recognizes that this ISO 9001 certification is also a credit to the hard work and dedication of all its employees, reflecting their commitment to always meet and exceed the needs and expectations of the company's customers. This is indeed a very remarkable achievement for the year 2001 and another milestone to the company's pursuit for excellence.

PRII QUALITY POLICY

Philippine Resins Industries, Inc. is committed to the relentless pursuit of Quality in all aspects of its business.

We will strive to **consistently exceed the needs and expectations of our customers** *with our products and services.*

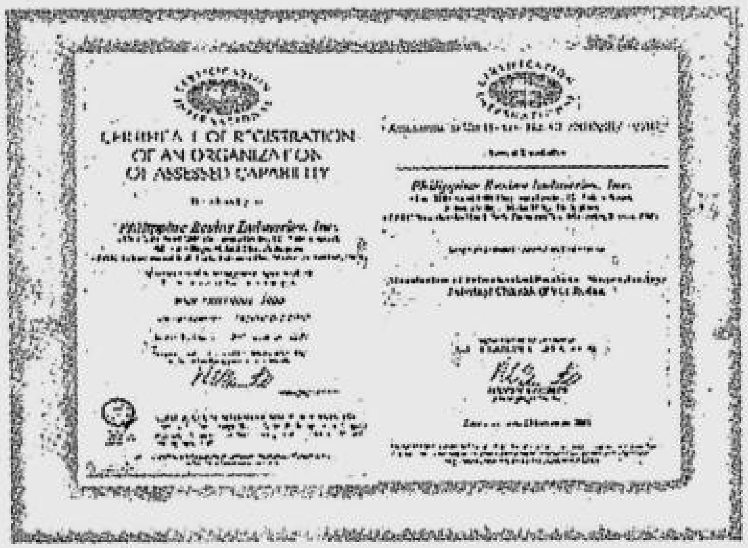
We will establish and maintain a Quality Management System that will engender **world-class performance** *and involve all people in supporting and advancing efforts focused on meeting* **customer satisfaction, cost competitiveness, and continual improvement** *in all we do at every level of our company.*

We will demonstrate **Responsible Leadership, Creativity, Innovation, Objectivity,** *and* **Team Work** *in a professional and flexible environment that exhibits loyalty and support to our customers, suppliers and stakeholders.*

Integrity, Ethics, *and* **Honor** *will be the hallmark of all our business initiatives and transactions as we fulfill the company's* **pursuit of Excellence** *under the guidance of* **Divine Providence.**

ABOUT PHILIPPINE RESINS INDUSTRIES, INC.

Philippine Resins Industries, Inc. (PRII) was incorporated in May 1994 in response to the rapidly increasing demand for a highly versatile thermoplastic material, polyvinyl chloride (PVC) resin. In the same month, PRII's application to establish a PVC resin plant in Bataan was approved by the Board of Investments (BOI) and granted pioneer status. Likewise, the application of PRII to increase its PVC resin capacity from 70,000 TPY to 140,000 TPY and finally 180,000 TPY was approved by the Board of Investments in late 1996 and early 1997 respectively. The same application rationalizes the plan to operate PRII as a fully-integrated Chlor-Alkali, EDC, VCM and PVC complex early in the next millennium.



CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION
OF AN ORGANIZATION
OF ASSESSED CAPABILITY

Philippine Resins Industries, Inc.

Philippine Resins Industries, Inc.

PRII's PVC plant is one of Asia's most modern. With its world-scale capacity, the plant can supply the overall domestic PVC requirements, making the country self-sufficient in PVC resins supply. Moreover, it utilizes state-of-the-art technology of suspension polymerization from Tosoh Corporation, Japan, ensuring an efficient production of high quality resins.

Since the year of its commercial operations in January 1999, PRII has taken leadership in vinyl manufacturing in the Philippines, with its operational performance revealing a vibrant and promising growth. In line with its envisioned development, the debottlenecking of PRII's plant capacity to 90,000 TPY was completed in January 2001.

With the new ownership structure – Mitsubishi Corporation and Tosoh Corporation, each holding 50% of the company's equity – PRII strives to continue producing and improving various grades of quality PVC resins.

The PRII Management Team and Employees

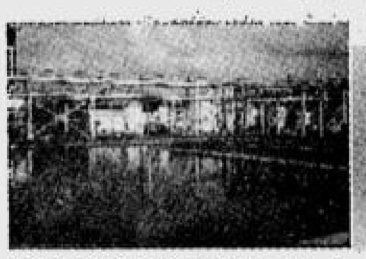
PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

PRII produces various grades of suspension type PVC resins used for pipes and fittings, films and sheets, footwear, packaging and profiles, wires and cables, tiles, both for the domestic and foreign markets. With the technical expertise of its staff and its advanced laboratory facility, the company is equipped and committed to undertake R&D on PVC resins and pursue continuous collaborative product development efforts with its customers; this being matched with just-in-time delivery and reliable after-sales service.

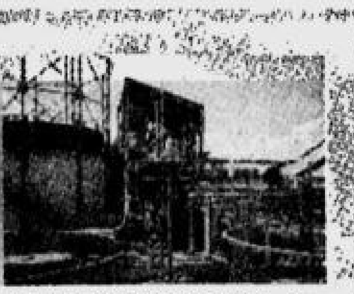
PRODUCTS GRADES AND APPLICATIONS

GRADE / K VALUE	APPLICATION
K-57 (PR700)	*Packaging, Bottles and Films, Rigid Products, Rigid/Flexible Sheets*
K-60 (PR 800)	*Transparent Rigid Sheets, Semi-Rigid and Rigid Transparent Packaging Films, Rigid Fittings, Rigid Profiles*
K-65 / K-65S (PR 1000)	*Rigid Pipes, Artificial Leather, Food Packaging, Films and Sheets, Flexible Hoses, Wires and Cable Insulation, Shoe and Sandal Sole, Toys and Semi-Rigid Molded Products*
K-70 (PR 1300)	*Electrical Tapes, Luggage Materials, High Temperature Wire & Cable Insulation, Flexible and Semi-Rigid Products*

Product Warehouse

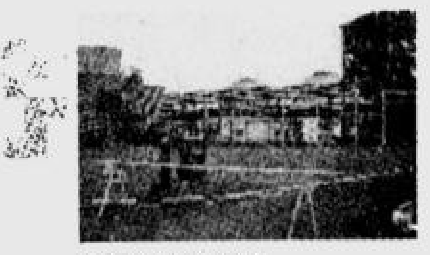


Wastewater Treatment Facility



Polymerization / Degassing Area

Drying Yard



DCS Control Building

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Tel (63-2) 7515273-76 & 8871243
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Tel (63-47) 2446406 & (63-47) 2445975
Fax: (63-47) 2445976

Gloria stands by her man at finance

From page A1

cial Banking Corp. (RCBC), which "frontloaded" the money needed to buy the bonds. CODE-NGO earned P1.8 billion and paid its financial advisers and RCBC at least P400 million. The sale of the bond was exempted from the 20-percent withholding tax.

Soliman, founder and former president of CODE-NGO, asked the group's critics to reflect on how NGOs maintain ties to international foundations before they call the sale of the Poverty Eradication and Alleviation Certificate Bonds (Peace) a scam.

She disclosed that the international NGO community was monitoring the progress of the "innovative" bond flotation program because this could work well for organizations in Europe where the bond markets are well developed.

Soliman said CODE-NGO's decision to raise poverty-alleviation funds through the bond float highlighted the drought in grants from international donors.

She said "stressed-out" NGOs and foundations had come to terms with the fact that foreign donors had drifted away from welfare projects, creating a demand for new approaches to social welfare programs.

"That's why I am smiling (at the wide-ranging criticisms coming from fellow NGOs)," she told the INQUIRER following the opening in Baguio of a three-day conference on child-care institutions.

Letter campaign

Members of CODE-NGO have started a letter campaign, addressed to the senators, to explain the legality of the transaction, according to Soliman.

But Sen. John Osmeña, chair of the Senate finance committee, said Camacho could be liable for graft.

Osmeña said Camacho was involved in the sale of the P35 billion in government bonds contrary to the finance secretary's claim that he had inhibited himself from the transaction.

The senator said the finance secretary hosted a meeting last year between officials of CODE-NGO led by Camacho-Reyes and National Treasurer Sergio Edeza to discuss the issuance of zero-coupon bonds.

The President said the transaction was above board.

"Personally, I find that it's in order. It was a competitive bidding. It's the money of RCBC, not the money of the government," the President said.

"But anyway, there is an investigation going on. Let's wait for the (results)," she said, referring to the Senate committee on finance looking into the transaction.

Ms Macapagal said she was hopeful that the committee chaired by Osmeña would eventually clear Camacho.

The President also expressed hope that the controversy would not result in Camacho being bypassed again by the Commission on Appointments.

"Well let's not preempt the (CA and say) . . . because I am hoping he will be confirmed," Ms Macapagal said.

The Senate committee on finance will forward to the Commission on Appointments all pertinent documents allegedly implicating Camacho in the alleged irregularities that attended the sale of the Peace bonds, according to Osmeña.

He said CA members deliberating on the appointment of Camacho must be informed of the nature of the charge against the finance secretary.

BY his lonesome at his storm-tossed Senate confirmation hearing, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho keeps his cool.

"I hope that the commission will not be hasty and confirm him. They should wait until the hearing in the Senate is over," he added.

A nongovernment organization said Camacho did not deserve to be confirmed.

The Freedom from Debt Coalition said Camacho had failed to protect the interest of the government in the sale of the bonds.

'Influence peddling'

FDC president Maria Teresa Diokno-Pascual said Osmeña confirmed the group's "worst fears" during the Senate finance committee hearing on Tuesday. At the hearing Osmeña disclosed a letter dated Aug. 9, 2001 which showed that Camacho-Reyes had dropped the name of her brother.

"It shows that there was really influence used," Pascual-Diokno said in a phone interview.

She said the Peace Bonds controversy might even surpass the BW Resources scandal in 1999 and the Bancap scam in 1994.

The two scandals were perpetrated by private individuals who manipulated the capital markets with the tacit approval or leniency of some government institutions.

"But this is much worse. In this case, people in the high echelons seem to be working out for the deal," Pascual-Diokno lamented.

She said Camacho-Reyes' letter of Aug. 9, 2001 to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas indicating that CODE-NGO and the Bureau of Treasury had a meeting "hosted by no less than Secretary Camacho himself" clearly indicated that influence-peddling was used by CODE-NGO to corner the deal.

"If that is not influence peddling, I don't know what it is," she said.

But what was more striking about the revelation was that the finance secretary did not protest when issues detrimental to the government's interests were tackled, Pascual-Diokno said.

She was referring to Edeza's questions about CODE-NGO's earlier proposal for a negotiated deal and the tax exemptions subsequently granted to the Peace bonds.

"He could have objected to the deal, including the auction, but he did not," Pascual-Diokno said.

But CODE-NGO coordinator Danilo Songco maintained that the transactions for the acquisition of the Peace Bonds were legal.

Fantastic

"Their story that this is a scam is just fantastic," Songco said in a separate interview.

He lambasted Senators Osmeña and Tessie Aquino-Oreta for "twisting facts" and manipulating information to make it appear that the transaction was anomalous.

He cited for instance the allegations of Oreta that the government lost P5 billion in potential revenue because of the tax exemption given to the Peace bonds.

"The law provides that it is tax exempt," Songco said.

Under a BIR ruling, bonds with maturity of more than five years, as in the case of Peace Bonds, shall not be included in gross income and shall be tax exempt.

Songco also decried allegations that the government intentionally borrowed so that CODE-NGO could raise the P1.3 billion it needed for its endowment fund.

"Whether or not CODE-NGO made the proposal (to float the 10-year Peace Bonds), the government will still borrow anyway," he said.

Had CODE-NGO not participated in the transaction, Songco said, profits from the sale of the bonds would solely go back to the winning Government Securities Eligible Dealers.

He said it was unfair to compare the P100 million in yearly allotment of the Peace Foundation, which manages the endowment fund, with the P2.5 billion in annual interest for the sale of the zero-coupon instruments.

"That's like comparing apples and oranges," Songco said.

Soliman said CODE-NGO members such as the Philippine Business for Social Progress, the Jaime V. Ongpin Foundation Inc., the National Secretariat of Social Action and the National Council for Social Development thought up the Peace bond concept to maximize their own anti-poverty projects. ***With reports from Cynthia Balana and Gerald Lacuarta***

Desierto, Moreno hail revival of graft cases

From page A1

The two said the Sandigan castigated Desierto and his prosecutors for causing a delay in the progress of the cases.

Moreno said Desierto should not receive any credit for the revival of the 62 graft cases against former Finance Secretary Antonio Belicena, former One-Stop-Shop Center executive director Uldarico Andutan Jr., and executives of Pilipinas Shell and Petron Corp.

Moreno called on competent government lawyers to handle the cases. "I hope government lawyers are willing to volunteer (for the job)," he said in a news conference.

Inaction

Francisco said the Sandigan resolution showed that "there was an unexplained continued inaction on the part of the Ombudsman on the prosecution of the cases lasting more than a year and a half."

But Desierto said the decision of the Sandiganbayan 4th division to revive the cases belied Moreno's claims.

"With this development, the public will know and understand that the prosecution had not bungled the cases, contrary to the statements of my self-proclaimed detractors," he said.

Desierto said the truth "can never be hidden no matter how many prosecutors try hard to put me down. My clear conscience will guide me through in this fight."

Moreno, in a privileged speech on Jan. 23, accused Desierto of bungling the government's prosecution of the tax credit scam. He cited the dismissal of the 62 cases by the Sandiganbayan on Aug. 20, 2001 as proof that Desierto was allegedly filing defective cases.

"Since the (dismissal of the cases) is the crux of the second impeachment complaint, that complaint now absolutely has no legal or factual basis," Desierto said.

He stressed that Moreno's allegations that his office was favoring the accused had been discredited "because, in fact, we were upheld by the Sandiganbayan."

He reiterated his earlier statement that Moreno should have questioned the quasi-judicial actions of the Ombudsman's Office with the proper courts, not within the halls of Congress.

"It should be the court which should rule on the issue of effective prosecution (of my office) and not any practicing lawyers like Congressman Moreno," he said, "Now this development has proven him wrong, and I'm vindicated."

Desierto said it was unfortunate that Moreno had been going around to ask for signatures from lawmakers on the basis of the allegation that "I bungled the tax scam probe."

The Ombudsman said Moreno's penchant for twisting facts "will now haunt him."

Discredited

Desierto added that Moreno's lies had been discredited last month after the Ombudsman's Office proved that it had yet to start its preliminary investigation of the tax scam involving the Chingkoe Group of Companies.

Moreno had claimed that Desierto filed weak cases and even exempted the Chingkoes from prosecution. Records from the Office of Ombudsman, however, showed that the Chingkoes and officials of two oil firms were subpoenaed by the Ombudsman Preliminary and Investigation Bureau as early as Jan. 11.

In a surprise ruling, the Sandiganbayan reversed its August 2001 decision dismissing the cases for the supposed failure of the prosecution—the Ombudsman Office of the Special Prosecutor (OSP)—to finish the reinvestigation of the cases on time.

The reversal, which was penned by Associate Justice Nicodemo Ferrer, paved the way for the arraignment and pre-trial of all the 62 cases on Feb. 25 and 26.

The cases involved the illegal issuance of tax credit certificates to export firms, which they used to settle their tax obligations.

In reversing its ruling, the Sandiganbayan said the dismissal was not warranted since the right of the accused to a speedy trial was not compromised. "If there is any prejudice that may have resulted as a consequence of the postponements, it would be more against the government than against any of the accused," Ferrer said.

Instead of dismissing the cases, Ferrer said the court should have ordered the prosecution to explain why it should not be cited for contempt for failure to finish the reinvestigation in 60 days.

Desierto said the concurring opinion of Associate Justice Rodolfo G. Palattao pointed out that the order of dismissal in open court issued by 4th division chair Narciso Nario had violated Presidential Decree 1606 as amended by PD 7975.

"(Nario) precipitately ordered the dismissal of the cases . . . without the concurrence of the two other justices of the division," said Desierto, quoting Palattao.

Desierto said Palattao remarked that "from its conception (the open court dismissal order) is congenitally defective and must remain as such."

Desierto said he had ordered his officials to seek reconsideration of the dismissal "in the interest of justice."

He said it was impossible for the OSP to finish the reinvestigation in 60 days when 17 of the accused filed separate motions for reinvestigations, which were all granted by the court.

He said the last motion was granted on July 2001, and "that hardly a month thereafter on Aug. 20, the court already proceeded to dismiss the cases."

Did Desierto fudge facts on tax scam?

From page A1

Ombudsman's spokesperson, Jose de Jesus, called the discrepancies and the resulting questions "inconsequential and misleading." But the chair of a lawyers' advocacy group said these were "valid questions that ought to be answered."

"His facts don't add up," said Leonard de Vera of the e-Just movement.

The most puzzling question involves the actions of Desierto's office regarding the criminal liability of the spouses Faustino and Gloria Chingkoe, whose companies accounted for almost half, or some P2.5 billion, of the total value of the scam.

In the briefing, Desierto said that contrary to allegations, the Chingkoes were still very much under investigation: While it was true that they were not included in the Jan. 3, 2002 subpoena order, they were named in a second subpoena, dated Jan. 11.

"The two orders account for all the respondents," Desierto's rebuttal read. "So who was excluded? None! Who is being protected? None!"

But an examination of the two subpoena orders shows that the first was based entirely on the Oct. 17, 2001 complaint filed by the Ombudsman's Fact-Finding and Intelligence Bureau, while the second was the result of the Dec. 13, 2001 complaint filed by the task force.

The Oct. 17 complaint, based on the Sept. 5, 2001 fact-finding report filed by graft investigator Elena Barcenal and assigned the Docket No. OMB-0-01-0784, named the Chingkoe couple as respondents—but, as the INQUIRER reported two weeks ago, the spouses were not included in the subpoena.

"To me, the most intriguing question is 'Why were they not included?'" De Vera asked. "They are in the very vortex of this sham. Why are they being spared?"

During the briefing, Desierto said the exclusion was inconsequential, since the second subpoena summoned the Chingkoe couple anyway. No harm done, he explained.

As the paper trail traced by the Ombudsman himself shows, however, without the Dec. 13 complaint (Docket No. OMB-0-01-0973) filed by the task force, the Chingkoes would not have been included in the preliminary investigation at all.

Thus, Question No. 1: What would have happened to the Chingkoes, found criminally liable in the Sept. 5 report, if the task force had not filed its case?

Question No. 2: Both the Ombudsman's own complaint and that of the task force charged the Chingkoe couple, among others. Why were they subpoenaed for the second but not for the first?

In reply, De Jesus said the existence of two different subpoena orders did not matter, because the cases had been consolidated anyway.

"There is only a single consolidated preliminary investigation. He said, "The only question here is whether the Chingkoes and the oil executives are included or excluded as respondents in the case. There are no two ways about it. The irrefutable fact is that they are included."

Case chronology

Among the documents presented by the Ombudsman last week is a sheet of paper labeled "Chingkoe matrix," summarizing events related to the investigation of the Chingkoes and 12 of their companies implicated in the tax credit scam.

The document asserts that, as early as Sept. 14, 2001, the "Ombudsman (had) approved the recommendation to conduct preliminary investigation charging the Chingkoes, many others."

It was only on Jan. 3, 2002, however, that the preliminary investigation started with the signing of the subpoena order (which, as noted, did not include the Chingkoes).

What happened in between?

A rebuttal statement prepared by Desierto's office stated categorically: "Thus, while the Ombudsman approved the conduct of preliminary investigation . . . as early as Sept. 14, 2001, he ordered that the actual preliminary investigation be deferred, as it was deferred, to await the filing by TF 156 of its own complaint."

But this statement, underlined in the original, runs counter to the information gathered by the INQUIRER.

The task force, created by Executive Order No. 156, was inactive for much of last year, from January (because of the transfer of power through Edsa II) to early October. It was reactivated, and its life extended, only on Oct. 6, when President Macapagal-Arroyo issued EO 38. Thus, in September, when Desierto gave his order to defer the preliminary investigation to await action from the task force, there was no task force to speak of.

In his briefing, Desierto said his office had no contact with the task force. Almost all of the 175 criminal cases he filed with the Sandiganbayan in 1999 and 2000 related to the scam, he said last week, were solely the product of his office's fact-finding and investigation. It was only after the task force was reactivated that several "coordination meetings," as these were called by task force officials, were finally held.

But the first such meeting between the task force and Desierto's representatives was in the last week of October, fully a month after Desierto gave his order to defer and about two weeks after his office filed a complaint on all 12 companies on Oct. 17.

Thus, Question No. 3: How could Desierto have known in advance that the task force would be reactivated, and that it would focus on the Chingkoe companies?

Question No. 4: If the Department of Finance had not insisted on pursuing the scam, it seems likely that EO 38 would not have been issued. What would have happened to the Sept. 5 fact-finding report and the Sept. 14 decision to conduct a preliminary investigation if the task force had expired on Oct. 7?

In his reply, De Jesus said the task force "was never disbanded. At worst, for a time it only became less active; thus, the term 'reactivation' is misleading."

He added: "The only fair assumption was that the TF 156 investigation in those Chingkoe transactions had been continuing."

Problematic timeline

In another document prepared by his office, Desierto outlined the following chronology: "When (Ms Macapagal) took over the government, she reorganized and extended the life of TF 156 under EO 38." Then, the "new TF 156 began investigating the involvement of the Chingkoe Group of Companies to (sic) the TCC anomaly." Then, the "Ombudsman welcomed the probe by TF 156." Then, the "Ombudsman ordered a parallel investigation by the FFIB on the Chingkoe companies noting that TF 156 had not come up with any report after a year."

At best, this excerpt from a two-page chronology of the Chingkoe case misrepresents the timing of key events.

The reorganization of the task force did not happen "when (Ms Macapagal) took over the government," but almost nine months later, in October.

The new task force "began investigating" the Chingkoe companies in earnest, not at the start of the year as implied by the chronology, but in October.

The "parallel investigation" of the Ombudsman on the Chingkoe companies came before the new task force began its own investigation.

The Ombudsman's fact-finding, involving all 12 Chingkoe companies, was completed on Sept. 5, while the new task force commenced its probe only late in October, more than six weeks later.

The new task force could not have failed to "come up with any report after a year" sometime in mid-2000 (as already noted, the "parallel investigation" was completed in September), because the reactivation took place only in October.

Thus, Question No. 5: What does Desierto mean by a parallel investigation?

Question No. 6: The Ombudsman's own fact-finding into the Chingkoe companies concluded that Pilipinas Shell and Petron executives were not criminally liable for the scam. If the new task force had not conducted its investigation, which found oil firm officials involved in the anomalies too, what would have happened to the case against the oil companies?

In reply, De Jesus said Barcenal, the Ombudsman's investigator probing the matter, "did not get full access into the evidence in the possession of TF 156/One Stop Shop, among them the documents incriminating to the oil officials involved."

De Vera said he was not surprised at the discrepancies. "It shows a pattern that started with the (Estrada) plunder cases."

He gave one example: the plunder charge filed against Estrada crony Jaime Dichaves, which he said Desierto had sat on for far too long. He filed two motions for early resolution, in April and May last year, but the Ombudsman acted on the motion only in October. "It was a case of too little, too late," he said.

"It all shows now that Desierto does not act until he's prodded."

'Ukay-ukay:' There goes rags to riches

From page A1

from *ukay-ukay* owners and their mostly middle-class customers.

This as Baguio City officials admitted that closing down *ukay-ukay* (or *wagwag* as they are known in Baguio) shops would have a major impact on the city's economy and tourism industry.

But the order was a boon to Philippine garments makers. The Federation of Philippine Textile Industries (Fopti) welcomed the move, saying it would put an end to the proliferation of *ukay-ukay* shops in the country.

The *wagwag* shops have become one of the main features of Baguio tourism and the city government was even preparing to endorse them as an official Baguio attraction for tourism posters that would have featured the President.

The shops are called *ukay-ukay* because one has to sift through piles of used clothing. In Baguio, they are called *wagwag* (an Ilocano word meaning to dust off) because buyers sometimes have to shake off dust from the used clothes.

During a chance interview in Malacañang, Ms Macapagal said she supported Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman's drive to close down all *ukay-ukay* or *wagwag* stores. She said there was a law prohibiting the importation of used clothing.

The President said she was not afraid of a possible backlash from *ukay-ukay* owners and their customers. She said the government must have political will to enforce the law.

"I mean, if we are not cowed by the Abu Sayyaf and by the pro-Erap forces who are always trying to (grab power) . . ." she said.

'Wagwag' city

Baguio Mayor Bernardo Vergara last year endorsed what used to be the underground *wagwag* trade. Baguio has since been known as "*Wagwag* City," although a number of copycats have since sprung up in Metro Manila and other provinces.

Vergara had earlier said he was grateful for the industry's ability to draw in tourists.

The first *wagwag* trade began as a side street market in the city, but it had grown to a million-peso industry in only two years.

"(Vergara's position last year) is still sound. *Wagwag* is a convenient side trip for our visitors and this is (validated) by the number of tourists we have been (getting) for more than a year now," said tourism officer Benedicto Alhambra.

"This order (of Soliman) will have a major impact on tourism and our economy because most of the shops in downtown Baguio have been converted into *wagwag* houses."

Alhambra said the city government considers *wagwag* as a pastime for tourists.

"The 'Lakbay Aral' program has anchored on the *wagwag* trade as a come-on for Baguio trips. We have Lakbay Aral trips at least three times each week, and (the visitors) always look for the *wagwag* houses," he said.

"On Feb. 2, we had nine buses from Laguna, and all of (the visitors) bought *wagwag*."

Maintaining dignity

Soliman's Jan. 9 administrative order banning the sale of imported used clothes applies provisions of the Revised Tariff and Customs Code and the 1966 law, Republic Act No. 4653. (Incidentally, Soliman's predecessor, Ms Macapagal, issued the same ban in 1999 when she was DSWD secretary.)

RA 4653 "safeguard(s) the health of the people and maintain(s) the dignity of the nation by declaring it a national policy to prohibit the commercial importation of textile articles commonly known as used clothing or rags."

Soliman's order addressed the "increasing number of organizations receiving donations from foreign sources, particularly used clothing, which have reportedly resulted (in) the influx of used clothing in the open market."

The order reinforces customs import guidelines blocking rummage sale goods.

Not donated clothes

Beverly Somera, spokesperson of the Baguio Alternative Fashions, which organized the city's first "*wagwag* festival" last year, said *wagwag* traders buy used clothing from the Salvation Army in Hong Kong and transport them in *balikbayan* boxes to Baguio for retail.

"The nature (of the Hong Kong-sourced *wagwag*) is retail and we buy them from the Salvation Army. These are not donated, so we do not violate laws against imported used clothes," she had said in an earlier interview.

Baguio's social workers admitted that the DSWD did not have full authority to crack down on the *wagwag* trade.

"That will be a problem because the DSWD can only regulate huge shipments sponsored by nongovernment organizations and charity institutions. But when it comes to private transactions, then we will need the local government's help," said Evelyn Lorenzo, DSWD Cordillera spokesperson.

The government ban on *ukay-ukay*, or *wagwag*, was a welcome development for the Federation of Philippine Textile Industries (Fopti).

Fopti had expressed concern over the mushrooming of *ukay-ukay* outlets in the country, saying these posed a serious threat to Philippine textile and apparel makers.

Fopti had urged the Bureau of Customs and the DSWD to curb the rising volume of second hand apparel imports, which it said were mostly being shipped in the guise of donations for charity work.

Fopti said imported used clothing could now be confiscated or burned. ***With a report from Gil Cabacungan Jr.***

Villaroman eagles way to the leaderboard

VILLAROMAN

DEL MONTE, Bukidnon—Carmelette Villaroman eagled 17 yesterday en route to taking the first-round lead in the 39th Southern Ladies Open here.

The 25-year-old Villaroman, fresh from her smashing victory last week in the DHL-NGAP Amateur Open, had a pitched in eagle from 40 years on the short par-4, 17th and went on to post a 2-under-par 70 worth 56 points in the Molave scoring system.

Lina de Guzman made it 1-2 for Canlubang with her 71 worth 55 points in the NGAP-organized tournament through NGAP ladies committee chair Alice Andrada.

Aileen Rose Yao was third with an even-par 54 points, followed by defending champion Heidi Chua with 53 in the event sponsored by the Philippine Sports Commission, Wide Wide World-DHL, Directories Philippines Corp., Air Philippines, Mizuno, Hidden Spring and Perrier Inc., Mitsubishi Motors, Belmonte Corp., and the Gopez Group of Companies.

Sharing the spotlight with Villaroman was Alabang's Maridith Limjoco, who scored a hole-in-one on No. 16, the hole made famous by Thomas Warne when the Del Monte executive hit 36 balls into the pond fronting the green during a tournament in 1938.

"I'm so excited I want Frankie Miñoza to kiss me," said Limjoco, who was in the company of Del Monte's Linda Arinzol and Lenie Arancon and Alabang's Jo Christie Punsalang when she scored her first ace since picking up the game four years ago.

What Limjoco got was not a kiss but a photo-taking session with the legendary Miñoza next to her under the towering pine trees near the 18th green of the magnificent Del Monte Golf Club.

Miñoza, the most eminent product of Del Monte, is presently enjoying a break from his hectic schedule in the Japan Tour.

For her ace, Limjoco, who finished with 95 worth 31 points, won a Mizuno golf set from Lovell Gopez.

Birdies rained yesterday, with Villaroman gunning down 4, De Guzman and Yao 5 each and Chua 2 on a cool day at the elegantly manicured course 1,600 feet above sea level.

But the 17th-hole eagle made the difference for Villaroman, a former world junior champion, who lost to Chua in Bacolod last year by only2 points after a thrilling, neck-and-neck duel down the wire.

Lora Roberto was in fifth with 51, Eva Minoza 6th with 50, Lovelyn Guio Guio 7th with 49, Tracy Locsin 8th with 48 and Lucy Landicho 9th with 46.

Other scores:

Class A—Arlette Dizon 48 Southwoods, Inday Miñoza 45 Del Monte, Nene Guio Guio 45 Del Monte.

Class B—Cheryl Chua 47 Wack Wack, Hilda Badong 43 Phil. Navy, Kim Jeong 40.

Class C—Marilyn Lui 37 Pueblo de Oro, Aloma Lopez 35 Wack Wack, Karen Buenaventura Manila Golf Club, Lolit Arguelles 34 Alabang, Marissa Romano 34 Orchard.

Class D—Marilyn Bantug 33 Valley, Maribel San Miguel 30 Del Monte, Sheelah Kho 30 Wack Wack.

Hi-octane aggressiveness

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE MINUTE I saw those shots being fired from afar go in, I shuddered in fear. I knew immediately Welcoat was determined to win. Boy, the Paintmasters were too deadly Tuesday even Michael Jordan and the Wizards could not have succeeded in stopping them from winning.

Junel Baculi had Game 4 by the throat just two minutes into the match.

As quick as when a tiger attacks an unsuspecting prey, the wily Welcoat coach ordered his wards to unleash a blitzkrieg at the whistle. The element of surprise was at its best.

Shark coach Leo Austria had no ready answer to Welcoat's rapist-like aggressiveness in Game 4. Immediately, the Power Boosters were thrown off-balance; no, their defense wasn't off. Against someone out to defang you—to deflower you if you wish—the spray-gun becomes a mere toy-gun. In short, it was simply that the Paintmasters had ganged up on the Power Boosters like a bunch of rogues in the name of mayhem. Tell me, who can telegraph an ambush? Not even Douglas MacArthur could.

Junel Baculi had all the right moves while Leo Austria had all the wrong moves Tuesday.

Junel knew he had nothing to lose anyway as any team down 0-3 in a best-of-seven affair was like having one's foot on the grave. Junel's wards typified their will to win when, in one quarter, they sped ahead not only in scoring baskets but also in accumulating fouls. An abundance of fouls—although that's a coach's nightmare—is an indication of aggressive play.

What I'm saying is, Welcoat played its role to the hilt while Shark played its role from the hip.

Welcoat was almost suicidal as death stared it in the face. Shark, because it was so conscious of its 3-0 margin, was almost gun-shy that it soon found itself shooting blanks when it finally decided to mix it up.

Welcoat wanted a streetbrawl and got it—so easily, that is. Shark gave Welcoat that—on a silver platter—and came out battered and bloodied. You bit into the other camp's bait and you are a goner. Isn't coaching the art of outfoxing the enemy?

As I said, either Game 4 or Game 5 could be the championship for Shark. Another defeat today could further compound matters for the Power Boosters.

Hey, will the balloons be up there again?

Or, do we need more helium after today's game?

Shark's got the answers to those.

■

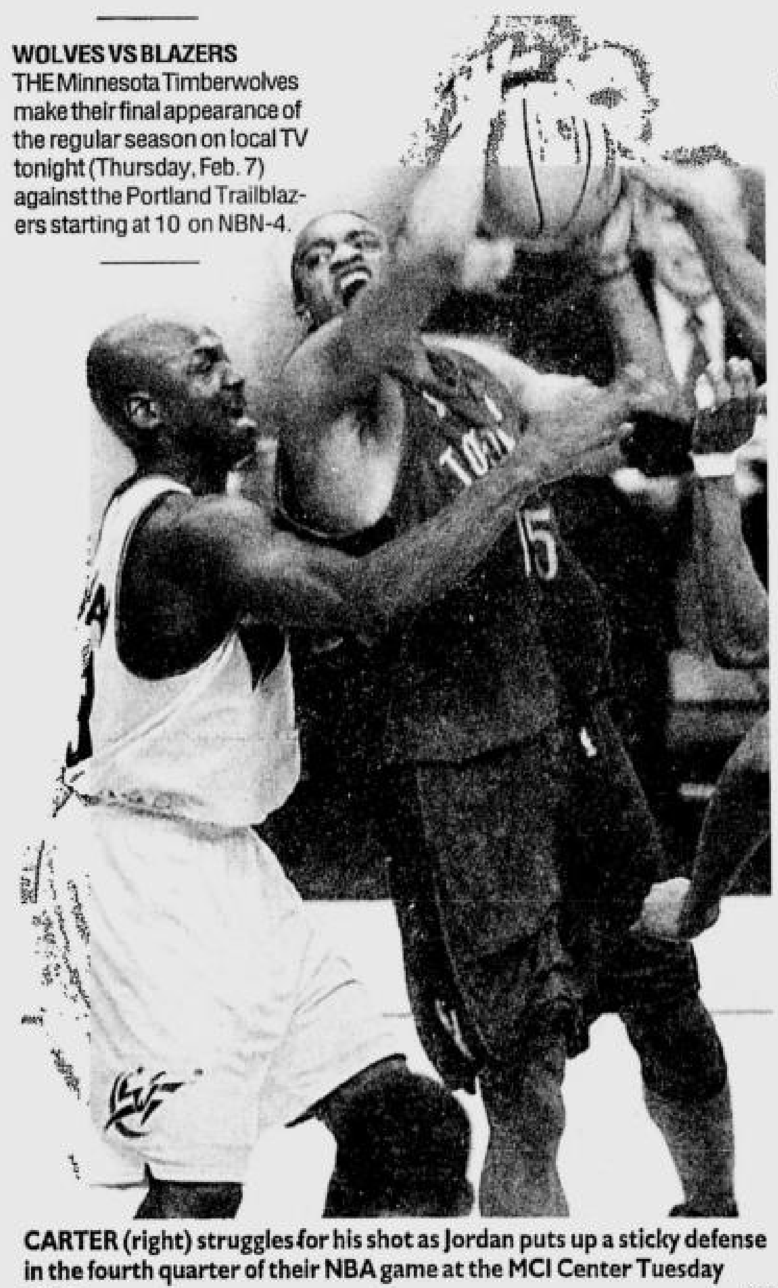
As usual, Del Monte Golf Club manager Marites Coronia is doing a fine job overseeing the proceedings of the ongoing 39th Southern Ladies Open at Del Monte in Cawayanon, Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon. The organizing National Golf Association of the Philippines is extremely grateful to her. Three of Marites' staff, Nits Losbanos, Rene Ibanag and Mayette Saavedra, are backstopping her superbly. But not to be overlooked, though, is the clockwork precision with which Jimmy Ong, Caloy Mendoza and Babi Faedlden do about their job at the DMGC Lodge, the exclusive enclave where some guests are billeted. Take a bow, guys and dolls. You make Cito Lorenzo proud.

■

Adonis Samson, my *kabaleyan* from San Carlos City (Pangasinan), tells me that Live Station will open shop on Feb. 12, with Fernando Poe Jr., Sharon and Tito, Vic and Joey cutting the ribbon at 6 p.m. The new joint is located along West Avenue in Quezon City. I will be there if *Pareng* Jolly Resuello and *Pareng* Teddy Cruz will be there, together with Tom Garcia, a great son of Mangatarem who is now the pride and joy of Cagayan de Oro City. All the best, Don.

WOLVES VS BLAZERS

THE Minnesota Timberwolves make their final appearance of the regular season on local TV tonight (Thursday, Feb. 7) against the Portland Trailblazers starting at 10 on NBN-4.



CARTER (right) struggles for his shot as Jordan puts up a sticky defense in the fourth quarter of their NBA game at the MCI Center Tuesday night. AFP

Jordan outplays Carter, Raptors

WASHINGTON— Michael Jordan, shut down by Vince Carter in the first half, scored 20 of his 23 points after halftime as the Washington Wizards beat the Toronto Raptors, 99-94, Tuesday for their fourth consecutive victory.

With Carter briefly out of the game, Jordan made the go-ahead basket over Chris Childs with 4:33 remaining and added four more points down the stretch after Carter returned, as the Wizards won for the sixth time in seven games.

Carter scored 29 points in losing his second bout with Jordan, and once again he dried up late. Carter had 23 points but did not score in the second half when the Raptors lost to the Wizards 93-88 in Toronto in December.

This time Carter scored just four points on 1-for-5 shooting in the fourth quarter, negating a good defensive effort in which he fought through screen after screen to frustrate Jordan much of the evening.

Clippers 112, Knicks 110

In New York, Quentin Richardson scored 13 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter and Corey Maggette scored 25 as Los Angeles rallied from an 18-point deficit in the second half to beat New York.

Jeff McInnis added 19 and Elton Brand 17 for the Clippers, who used a 41-13 run bridging the third and fourth quarters to turn a 75-57 deficit into a 98-88 lead.

Pistons 86, 76ers 82

In Auburn Hill, Michigan, Jerry Stackhouse scored 29 points and Detroit capitalized on Allen Iverson missing his last 11 shots as the Pistons beat Philadelphia.

Iverson scored 26 points but finished 7-of-31.

Philadelphia had won 10 of its last 13 games and six in succession against the Pistons. Detroit won for the sixth time in the past seven games.

Complete results: Boston 82, Charlotte 79; Atlanta 76, Miami 73; Orlando 106, Cleveland 98; Detroit 86, Philadelphia 82; L.A. Clippers 112, New York 110; Memphis 86, Utah 79; Washington 99, Toronto 94; Dallas 141, Indiana 140, 2OT; Denver 97, Portland 96; Seattle 113, Golden State 87. *AP*

Amputee joining HK race

ONE-LEGGED triathlete Rodolfo "Rudy" Fernandez will see action in the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon set on Feb. 24, in the former Crown Colony. Fernandez made waves when he last joined the marathon in 1999, landing in the front pages of the Hong Kong Standard.

Fernandez will be accompanied by his coach, veteran marathoner and race director Raffy Uytiepo. Fernandez and Uytiepo will likewise join Olympian Roy Vence and National marathon record holder Cristabel Martes who will also see action in the marathon.

Fernandez and Uytiepo's trip is being sponsored by Philippine Airlines, Standard Chartered Bank-Cebu Branch, Rudy Project, Adidas and Pharmaton. Fernandez competed in the National Triathlon Trials Iloilo Challenge held in Iloilo City last Saturday and finished first in the 50-above age group.

Shark tries to end . . .

(From page A16)

Welcoat coach Junel Baculi said winning today's tussle will change the complexion of the game. "It's going to be a different story. The pressure will be on Shark."

Baculi isn't new to this kind of situation. During the eliminations, the Paintmasters lost four straight games but recovered mightily to become the first squad to enter the Final Four.

"Welcoat is a champion team," Baculi said.

Shark pins its hopes on Ervin Sotto, Rysal Castro, Warren Ybañez, Chester Tolomia and Gerald Ortega.

PBA-bound Yancy de Ocampo, Ren Ren Ritualo, Jojo Manalo and Derick Canlas banner Welcoat's bid to become the first team in PBL history to wipe out a 0-3 deficit and win the crown.

RP pugs girding for 2 int'l meets

RARING to recover lost ground in the coming Busan Asian Games, Team Caltex Philippines stepped up its preparations by competing in two international tournaments before the month ends.

Manny Lopez, president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines, yesterday told the INQUIRER that six boxers from the national pool are going to compete in the Ustinad Labem Cup set in the Czech Republic and the Prof. Anwar Chowdry Cup in Baku, Azerbaijan. Both are ranking tournaments of the Amateur International Boxing Association headed by Chowdry.

Lopez bared that the coaching staff have been conducting elimination tournaments among the national pool members in compliance with the directive of new Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain for the national sports associations to submit their Asiad lineups early.

Roy Luarca

7-cock derby on tap

BIG-TIME cockfighting starts early at 5 p.m. today when the 4th UCAP/EGT Stingers Guts and Glory 7-Cock Derby championship round gets going at Mandaluyong Coliseum.

A total of 56 encounters are on tap in the event sponsored by Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo.

The current frontrunners with three points each are Boyboy Roa and Rep. Claude Bautista of Davao del Sur (R and B Farm II), businessman Danding Cojuangco (Bumble Bee Balbina), hotelier Biboy Enriquez Firebird MB), engineer Sonny Lagon (Blue Blade), Benjie Lim (Hammer Jr. I) and Eddie Araneta (Liza Galore Stinger).

For other inquiries, please contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1993, Emerito Concepcion scored 576 points in the air rifle event to break his 1991 SEAG mark of 573 and earn a berth in the national team competing in the Singapore SEAG at Ft. Bonifacio. Also today in 1996, Salvador Medialdea and Alfredo Lim combined for 166 points to rule the 12th Mango Tee Invitational golf championship in Alabang.

Mindanao triathlon gets underway March 10

THE 2002 NAGT Triathlon Series fires off in Davao City with the holding of the Enervon Araw Ng Dabaw Triathlon on March 10.

The Mindanao legs will cover three more sprint-distance (750m swim-20km bike-5km run) events to be held in Cagayan de Oro (June 16), Davao City (Aug. 18) and finally in General Santos City (Sept. 1).

"We are happy to be part of the 2002 NAGT series which is aimed to promote biathlon in the countryside," said Rodel Magsalin, health consumer division supervision for Mindanao of Enervon-Alaxan products of United Laboratories.

Like the previous series, the NAGT will give recognition to the top three overall finishers based on points earned from the best four performances in the series. The age-groups are divided into 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, and 55-over.

The series, sponsored by the Philippine Sports Commission, POC, Asia-Pacific Insulation, and Speedo, is open to all newcomers and members of the RP triathlon team-developmental pool.

For inquiries, call the TRAP at cellphone numbers 0917-9116842, 0916-8421114, and 0917-4217913. Visit Ridge Triathlon online at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ridgetri . TRAP's email is ridgecarlo~yahoo.com . The race organizer of the Mindanao legs is Vic Sai (082-2279347) of The Mindanao Mirror.

The 2001 NAGT series had produced new members to RP-Team training pool like Abet Biagan and Amale Mendezona (Male and Female Age-Group Triathletes of the Year). Solid performers were Pol Reyes (Batangas City), Natalya Uy (UP swimming team), Pearl Mijares (Bacolod), Chris Aldeguer (Cebu City) and RP team rookie sensation Astrud Valdez (Cavite).

RACING TIPS

At Santa Ana By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Time for Miracles 2. Spoiler 3. Sexy Royal/Show Affection

Race 2—1. Royal Worship 2. Dynasty

Race 3—1. Nokaba 2. Far Out 3. Hello Paul 4. Better King

Race 4—1. Golden Prince 2. Champs Elysees

Race 5—1. Royal Angel 2. Imperial Act 3. Steel Wheel

Race 6—1. Hunting Treasure 2. Lady Blaster 3. Dial Tone/Filthy Rich 4. Chocolate Moose 5. Pingas

Race 7—1. Roulette Queen 2. Ocean Friend 3. Above All

Race 8—1. Gidget 2. Princess Malinda 3. Cobra Door 4. Adam's Call 5. Lovely Luigi 6. Divine Diva

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SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ● Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA - Portland Trailblazers vs Minnesota Timberwolves at 9 a.m. r - 9 p.m.) on Star Sports

US NCAA - Virginia vs NC State at 1 p.m., Cincinnati vs Charlotte tomorrow at 3:30 a.m. on ESPN .

NBA at 10 p.m. on NBN 4

GOLF: Global Golf Spotlights - Sergio Garcia at 11:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Wong, Susanto sparkle

MELAKA, Malaysia—Telekom All-Stars' Wong Kam Po and Tonton Susanto made it a 1-2 finish in the Asian stage after yesterday's 129.7-km journey from the Bangi New Town to here as the Le Tour de Langkawi reached its halfway mark. Wong, the 1997 Marlboro Tour champion, and Susanto, Indonesia's many-time SEA Games gold medalist, were actually a part of a 28-man field of riders who reached the finish line first in two hours, eight minutes and 58 seconds.

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WELCOAT TRAILS

Shark tries to end series today

(Best-of-seven) Shark 3 Welcoat 1
Game One:
Shark 80 Welcoat 79 (OT)
Game Two:
Shark 67 Welcoat 58
Game Three:
Shark 61 Welcoat 46
Game Four:
Welcoat 66 Shark 47

GAME TODAY: (Makati Coliseum)
5 p.m.—Welcoat Paints vs Shark Energy Drink

By Dennis U. Eroa

WITH Welcoat Paints back in the groove, defending champion Shark Energy Drink may find the going rough in today's Game Five of the PBL Challenge Cup best-of-seven championship series at the Makati Coliseum.

But Shark coach Leo Austria isn't going to press the panic button yet. "The team feels no pressure, at all. With the sweep no longer possible, I feel that we can now play our usual game," Austria told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Welcoat brought Shark crashing back to earth with a 66-47 victory in Game Four last Tuesday. The Paintmasters trail the Energy Drink Kings, 3-1, and face the tough task of winning three straight games in order to unseat their foes.

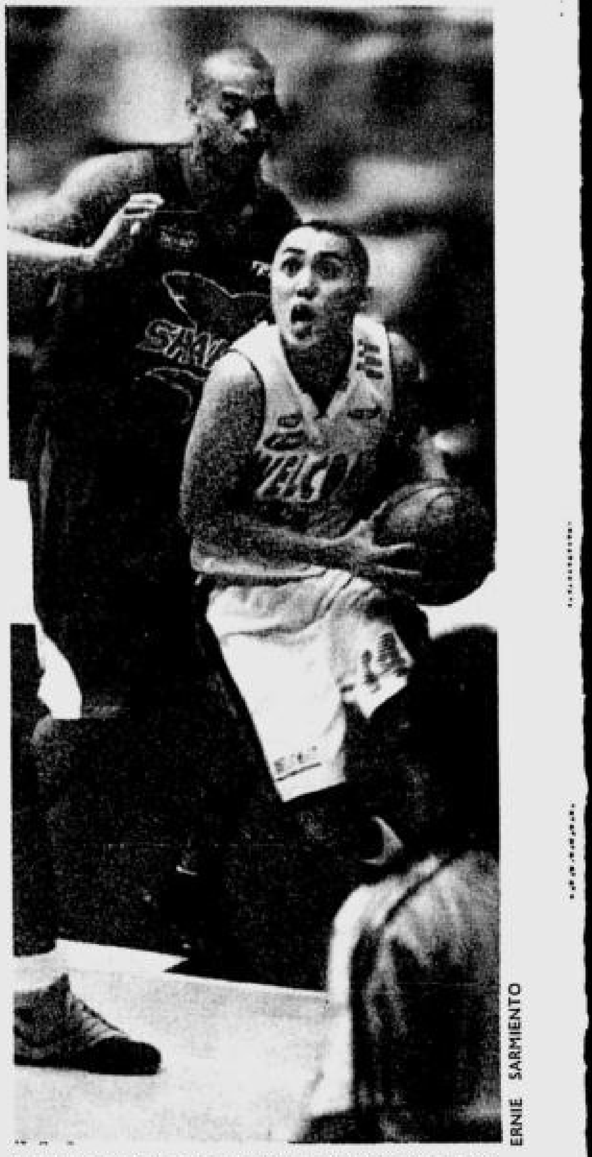
"We didn't achieve the sweep but we have nothing to be ashamed of. Everybody's buckling down to work in preparation for Game Five," said Austria, a native of Sariaya, Quezon."Remember we're the underdogs here."

Austria said the breaks didn't go Shark's way in Game Four. "Open shots did not fall. I knew that we're up for a grind after my starters did not score in the first five minutes of the game."

Shark entered Game Four with a six-game winning streak which started in the elimination playoff with dangerous Ana Freezers. In halting Shark, Welcoat for the first time in the series beat Shark in field goal percentage and committed less turnovers.

The fifth game is set today at 5 p.m before an expected jampacked crowd.

SHARK/ A15



ERNIE SARMIENTO

WELCOAT'S Ren Ren Ritualo (right) slips past Shark's Clarence Cole in Game Four of their PBL Challenge Cup Finals. The Paintmasters prevailed, 66-47, to stay alive in the series.

Rivals may scout Asiad-bound team; PBA on Feb. 10

By June Navarro

THE COUNTRY'S preparation for the Asian Games in Busan, South Korea this year stands to be scouted by the opposition as the telecast of the 2002 Philippine Basketball Association season goes global.

PBA chair Butch Alejo yesterday said that starting with the Governor's Cup on Feb. 10, games would be shown in the United States, North America, Canada, Japan, Hawaii, Guam, Papua New Guinea, Australia and some countries in the Middle East.

It means the scrimmages pitting the two national training squads—RP Team Selecta and RP Team Hapee—against the 10 PBA teams will be broadcast in these countries.

A PBA official confirmed that although Alejo bared the league's global telecast, talks between PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino and Middle East and North American countries are still ongoing.

The telecast will come in partnership with giant international digital company Samsung, which joined the PBA by sponsoring the Governor's Cup as the league looks at another banner year ahead.

"The league is grateful to companies like Samsung, which never forgets to throw its share for the continued development of sports in general and basketball in particular," said Bernardino during the PBA's press conference yesterday at the Westin Philippine Plaza.

Samsung Cup

Known as the Samsung Governor's Cup, the first conference features the 29-man RP training pool, which will be pruned down to 12 at the start of the second conference.

Bernardino said the league would adopt International Basketball Federation (Fiba) rules with the Basketball Association of the Philippines helping out in the officiating.

He said the two-man officiating would be applied every time the training teams play against a PBA squad while the usual three-man officiating would be employed on games which pit PBA teams only.

Bernardino added he already briefed the PBA teams and Viva Vintage personnel about the drastic change in the system to accommodate the preparation of the national team.

A single-game format will be applied on Tuesdays and Thursdays while Saturdays and Sundays will host twin matches, which start at 4 in the afternoon.

Newcomers Federal Express and Coca-Cola take the first crack on D-day as the league's 28th season unfurls at the Araneta Coliseum.

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METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Mayor slams GMA on flood project

By Christian V. Esguerra

"DON'T complain if Taguig drowns in another big flood."

Mayor Sigfrido Tinga on Tuesday issued this stern message to residents protesting the construction of a "megadike" that is touted as the solution to the flood problem in Taguig and nearby areas.

The mayor also slammed Malacañang for suspending the P2.9-billion flood project following a barrage of complaints that the megadike will lay waste to large portions of Taguig, Pateros, Pasig, and Rizal.

"People apparently have a short memory," Tinga said. "I'm sure they will all blame the local government in case of another flood."

The last big flood occurred two years ago when a huge portion of Taguig went underwater, according to Ana Santos, the town's public information officer.

That time, the entire ground floor of the town hall was submerged in floodwater and the local government received complaints from irate residents, Tinga said.

The flood-control project will solve the problem with the construction of a 9.8-kilometer floodway, stretching from Bicutan in Taguig to Taytay in Rizal, the mayor said.

Tinga blamed "heavy politicking" and a "small number" of protesters for the suspension of the project funded by the Japan Bank of International Cooperation.

"What are we telling the Japanese bank?" he asked. "It has already granted aid, but we don't seem to want it."

Residents have been pushing for the junking of the proposed megadike, saying it will affect around 50,000 settlers around Laguna Lake.

President Macapagal on Tuesday heeded their request and ordered a further study of the project.

Although the suspension order came in the wake of legitimate protests, the order also seemed to underscore the brewing rift between Tinga and Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano, of the Taguig-Pateros congressional district.

The mayor suspected it was through Cayetano's father, administration Sen. Renato Cayetano, that the President learned of the megadike controversy.

Tinga said Cayetano probably did not want the project to proceed since large tracts in Taguig and Pateros will be affected.

The cry for justice rages, a year after Ka Popoy's death

By Agnes E. Donato

THE CRYING continues for Ka Popoy's mother, shown here baring her grief during Lagman's funeral last year. Another photo on Page A18.

THE WAILING has not ceased.

A year after labor leader Filemon "Popoy" Lagman was slain inside the University of the Philippines campus in Quezon City, his family and friends are still crying for justice.

But unlike the 30,000-strong crowd that joined last year's funeral march for Lagman, there were only about a hundred family members and comrades during the morning wreath-laying ceremony at the steps of the UP Bahay ng Alumni where Lagman was shot dead a year ago yesterday.

Later in the afternoon, militant followers and allies of Ka Popoy marched to Mendiola Bridge to commemorate the first anniversary of Lagman's murder and protest the current US-RP war games.

"There is no other fitting tribute to Ka Popoy–a martyr of the working class–other than to rally the workers' movement to demand justice. Workers are demanding justice for Ka Popoy and also for the working class, whose life and struggle was adopted by Ka Popoy as his own," said Victor Briz, leader of the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino (BMP).

Briz said around 5,000 members of BMP, Sanlakas, Partido ng Manggagawa (PM), and their allies with the peace advocacy group Peace Camp marched from the University of Santo Tomas around 4 p.m.

Chanting "Uring Manggagawa Hukbung Mapagpalaya" and carying numerous red and blue banners, they arrived at the Don Chino Bridge some 15 minutes later and was met by 200 anti-riot policemen.

Police said the protesters numbered only more than 400.

In a statement read by former Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, Lagman's family expressed their disappointment over the failure of authorities to solve the labor leader's murder.

"A year after you were killed, all that the government investigators can produce are sketches of your alleged assassins and a menu of theories which is both flawed and suspiciously incomplete," the Lagman family stated

"It is ironic that in life you relentlessly campaigned for justice for the disadvantaged and the oppressed but in death you yourself are denied justice," they added.

Lagman's mother, Cecilia, 80, also asked President Macapagal to pressure the police to exert as much effort in solving her son's assassination case as they do to other celebrated cases such as those of slain actress Nida Blanca, abducted PR man Bubby Dacer and former child actress Strawberry.

"As a mother, I appeal to the President and mother of this country to order her men to finally solve my son's case," said Mrs. Lagman.

"It doubly hurts me to see that very little effort was being given to catch Popoy's killers," she added.

UP President Francisco "Dodong" Nemenzo also expressed grief over his friend Popoy's loss.

Nemenzo said he missed Lagman, especially now that the country is in an "embarrassing" situation where "military leaders had been admitting their inability to enforce the law and the government begging for help from the United States."

"If Popoy were alive, I'm sure he'd be in the frontlines fighting the entry of US troops in the country," Nemenzo maintained.

Friends and family members of Lagman also laid a wreath at the slain labor leader's tomb at the Loyola Memorial Park about 7 a.m. yesterday.

They unveiled a marker at Lagman's statue on the Avenida de Obrero in Marikina City before they proceeded to UP Diliman.

Masses were also offered. ***With a report from Philip Tubeza***

'No way they can close down Naia'

THE MANILA International Airport Authority will resist any attempt by the Parañaque government to close the Ninoy Aquino International Airport tomorrow, Airport Gen. Manager Edgardo Manda vowed yesterday.

Security authorities of the Naia are under instruction to prevent any attempt to take over the airport or close down the vital air facility.

Assistant General Manager for Security Miguel Hinlo, a former chief of the Philippine Air Force Aviation Security Command, said they are ready to resist Parañaque officials.

"Any attempt by the city officials to enter and close down the airport would be a breach of security and must be resisted at all costs," Hinlo said.

Chief Supt. Marcelo Ele, PNP Aviation Security Group chief, agreed.

"We will secure the area if they try to come in," he said.

Patricio Asoy, Mayor Joey Marquez's assistant for legal affairs, said the city would place the airport on the auction block tomorrow for failure to settle P650 million in land taxes since 1962.

WAZZZZUP ?
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US troops also learning from our boys

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

I HAD a dizzy spell while camping out in one of the forests at the vast Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) complex over the weekend. My condition became so serious I had myself taken to the hospital at Cubi Point within the SBMA.

During the time the Americans were still at the Subic Naval Base, now the SBMA, the hospital boasted of complete facilities.

The hospital, which has been taken over by a company that runs a supposedly five-star hotel inside the SBMA, has nothing to offer except first aid.

***

There were no specialists at the hospital, except a young lady doctor who passed the medical board exams in 1999, to attend to this writer. Although she was very amiable, she didn't have the expertise to diagnose what ailed me.

The young *doctora* said I was suffering from intense hypertension. I found out later the high blood pressure was caused by something else (not life threatening, I would like to assure both my friends and detractors). It was a good thing I insisted in coming back to Manila for a complete medical checkup even if I had to suffer three hours of dizziness discomfort.

What a pity the hospital at the SBMA, which is visited by thousands of local and foreign tourists, does not have complete medical facilities! Supposing a tourist gets seriously ill while vacationing at the SBMA, where would he go given the inadequate facilities at the hospital?

***

By the way, the Subic Naval Hospital once boasted of being the only hospital in the country that had decompression chambers. A decompression chamber is where they place divers suffering from the deadly bench or decompression sickness.

Are those decompression chambers still working at the SBMA hospital?

The question is asked because there are many scuba divers among the thousands of tourists who visit the SBMA. The sea off SBMA is full of historic sunken ships. What if a diving accident happens within the complex?

***

I found out when I camped out at the SBMA forest that American soldiers are learning jungle survival from their Filipino counterparts and Aeta guides.

From the deserted campsites in the forest, I learned that the US soldiers were taught how to make improvised traps for wild animals, alarm system using the resources of the forests, and booby traps using twigs and bamboos.

So, don't say that the *balikatan* (shoulder to shoulder) exercise is a unilateral learning experience—from the Americans to our boys. The Yanks also learn from Filipino soldiers the ways of living off the jungle.

***

Given the sophisticated weaponry and equipment, our boys will become among the best soldiers in the world. Our soldiers make do with very limited resources.

We used to have the best navy and air force in the 1950s and 1960s in this part of the world. Why? Because we had the best ships and planes given by the US at the time even if they were "hand-me-downs."

Our air force was so proud, it attracted the best graduates of the Philippine Military Academy—the barons of the class. PMA barons are cadets who graduated at the top of their class on the subjects of military science and tactics. Barons were the regimental commanders.

One of the PMA barons was former Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Nicasio Rodriguez, now the postmaster-general.

***

The communist New People's Army (NPA) denies its men killed an American resident at the Clark Special Economic Zone.

Brian Thomas Smith, an expatriate, who was trekking to Mt. Pinatubo with his German friend, Siegfried Whitman, also a Clark resident, was shot at by unidentified men believed to be NPAs. Whitman survived the ambush.

If the NPAs did not ambush Smith and Whitman, who did? Are they saying there are bandits in the Mt. Pinatubo area?

Whether NPA guerrillas or plain bandits killed Smith, it was a blot on the country's image as a tourist destination.

***

The government has been claiming that foreign tourists are not safe in Basilan, but that they are safe in other parts of the country.

How can Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon explain the killings of an Israeli tourist in Boracay and Smith in the vicinity of Mt. Pinatubo? The Israeli and Smith were far from Basilan.

If the peace and order condition in the country does not improve, we should not expect tourists to come to our shores.

***

The nerve of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) to warn its members will shoot US troops who stray into their territory during the war exercise in Basilan!

Let them fire at the combined Filipino and American troops, so they'll get what they're looking for.

Anyway, MILF guerrillas are coddling Abu Sayyaf bandits. Let's not kid ourselves, the Abu Sayyaf has a tactical alliance with either the MILF or the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

***

A friend, Ed Buendia, a Zamboangueño, called to say people in Metro Manila should stop demonstrating against the presence of US troops in Zamboanga City and Basilan, "because they're not speaking for us."

"How is it that people in Manila are demonstrating more than we do when we're the ones adversely affected by the Abu Sayyaf problem?" Buendia said. "We support the American presence in our place because they will help rid us get rid of those terrorists," he added.

Buendia belongs to the Ateneo de Zamboanga Alumni Association-Metro Manila chapter, which supports the US troops participation in the "war games" in Basilan.

P100,000 offered to solve rape-murder of 2 sisters

By Nelson F. Flores

POLICE placed a P100,000 bounty on the head of the principal suspect in the rape and murder of two sisters in Antipolo City last Friday.

Supt. Jose Dayco, Antipolo City police chief, said the reward money—offered to anyone who can provide information that will lead to the arrest of suspect Jovie Guray—was raised by Antipolo Mayor Angelito Gatlabayan and concerned residents.

Dayco said the reward was raised following massive public outrage over the incident.

The police chief said he is now waiting for the results of fingerprint and DNA tests collected from the crime scene, and statements of people who were invited to the police station to shed light on the incident. Dayco said police are taking their time in investigating the incident to ensure the buildup of an airtight case.

"We want to be sure that everything is done right because we want justice to be properly served," Dayco said.

Yesterday, the Inquirer learned from police sources that four suspects who were earlier invited to the police station for fingerprinting have gone missing early this week. One of those who went missing is Carlito Buluran, Guray's brother-in-law.

Buluran was released from police custody on Saturday, right after he submitted his fingerprints to the police.

Earlier, Dioscoro Bailon, father of the slain sisters Agnes and Jasmin, appealed to witnesses to help the police in their investigation and urged authorities to speed up their work in apprehending those responsible for the crime.

On Tuesday, Bailon brought the remains of his daughters back to their hometown in Masbate.

But just before he left, Bailon told reporters that there was a report that a 14-year-old girl saw Guray and some unidentified men leaving the crime scene on the day of the murder.

In an interview, Bailon said he and his family relocated to Antipolo City only last July. He said they do not know anyone in their neighborhood since they are out of the house most of the time.

He also revealed that prior to the incident, Jasmin, the youngest in the brood of five, had been talking about the neighborhood bullies who had been making passes at her.

Jasmin's classmates at the Far Eastern University, where she finished college with a degree in mathematics, corroborated Bailon's claim, recounting how the victim often told them that said she did not like their new neighborhood.

"(Jasmin) did not want to live there because of the environment," one of the classmates said.

Dayco said a number of people saw Guray and the other suspects near the crime scene, but he added he would not want to rely on their testimonies because most of the witnesses are relatives of Guray.

They may retract their statements identifying Guray anytime, Dayco said.

According to police records, Guray is a drug dependent and neighborhood tough guy, with a string of robbery and theft cases. He was accused of stealing the cellular phone of Jasmin Bailon, 22, last December, records showed.

"After Jasmin filed criminal charges against the victim, the suspect threatened to kill her," Dayco said.

The sisters were believed to have been raped and killed between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. Friday inside their house. Their bodies were discovered by Arnold Jaurigue, who went to the victims' house after they failed to answer his calls on the cellular phone.

The sisters were stabbed repeatedly. Jasmin's body also bore torture marks.

"(Jasmin) was hit in the head with a hard object and apparently choked with pillows, leading investigators to conclude there are more than one person involved in the crime," Dayco said.

CHEERS

Best police district

THE NORTHERN Police District, which earned the tag "Liberator of Mendiola" for its role in last year's May 1 siege of Malacañang, was again chosen as the country's Best Police district for the year 2001.

The award, set to be formally announced in today's celebration of the Philippine National Police 11th anniversary at Camp Crame, will be given to the NPD for the third straight year.

"The competition was very stiff but we have a unique accomplishment which other police district don't have," Chief Superintendent Vidal Querol, NPD director, said. General Querol personally led his men in thwarting the May 1 attack of the presidential palace by around 40,000 supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

JEERS

Jails this crowded

THE SORRY state of the country's overcrowded jails was again highlighted after an inmate allegedly died due to a skin disease at the Manila City Jail Tuesday.

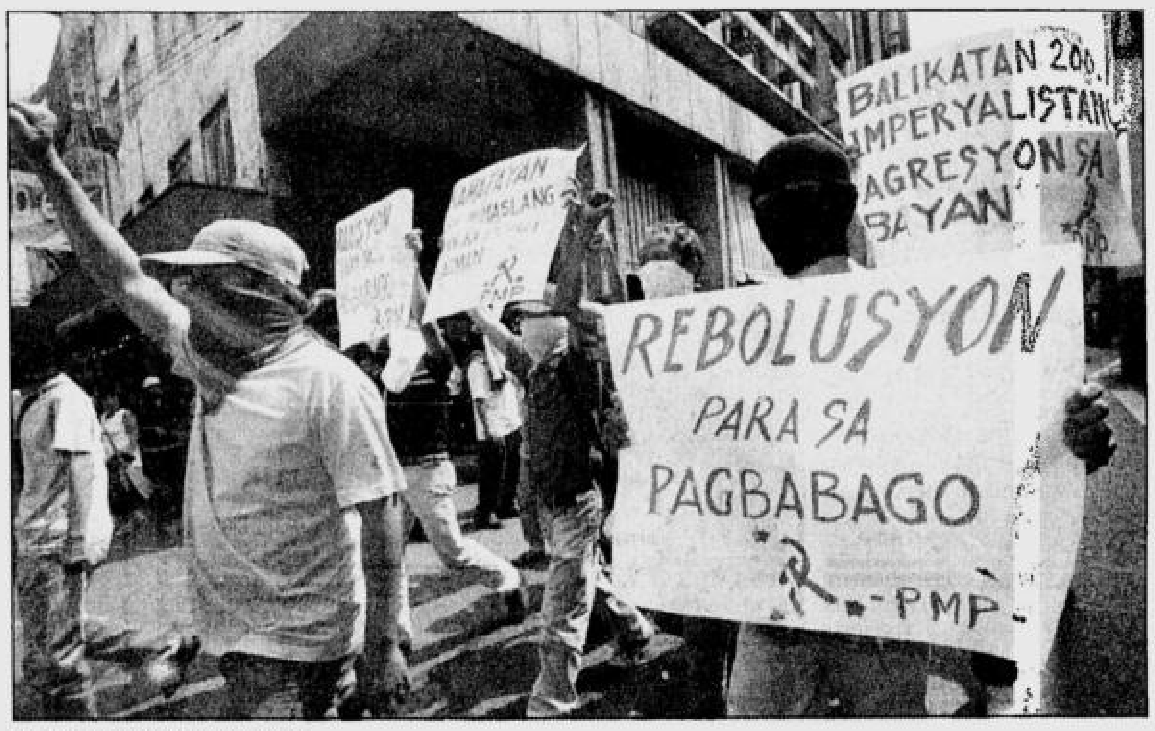
Police were actually trying to determine what happened to Rolando Inocia, 40, of 2708 Sta. Catalina St., Sampaloc, Manila, who died after complaining of *beri-beri* on Tuesday night, the Western Police District-homicide section reported yesterday.

Inocia had been staying at the Manila City Jail for one year after he was convicted on drug-related offenses.

About 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, the victim complained of beri-beri and was brought to the jail's infirmary. But doctors recommended that he be brought to the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center for further treatment.

Unfortunately, Inocia was declared dead on arrival at the JRRMMC at around 6 p.m.

Police are awaiting the results of the autopsy on Inocia.



MARCH FOR KA POPOY

Members of militant groups march on their way to Mendiola Bridge after staging a lightning protest in commemoration of the first death anniversary of labor leader Filemon "Popoy" Lagman.

ERIK ARAZAS

Arrest warrants out for Dec. 30 bombers

By Jerome Aning

A MANILA regional trial court yesterday issued arrest warrants against an alleged former military colonel and two former members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front for bombing the Light Rail Transit station in Sta. Cruz, Manila on Dec. 30, 2000.

Judge Wilfredo Reyes of Manila RTC Branch 54 recommended no bail for Col. Efren Torres, Hadji Onos and Sammy Arinday. The three were charged with multiple murder, multiple frustrated murder and multiple attempted murder.

Judge Reyes sent the warrants, dated Feb. 4, to the RTC Sheriff's Office yesterday.

The Dec. 30 blast, which ripped through a north-bound coach at the LRT Blumentritt Station, killed 23 passengers and injured dozens of others. But the case filed by Department of Justice prosecutors listed only eight fatalities.

Due to insufficiency of evidence, the DOJ cleared the three suspects of complicity in the bomb attacks on Plaza Ferguzon in Ermita, the Naia Centennial Air Cargo Terminal in Pasay City, Petron Gasoline Station in Makati City and on board an Edsan Bus Liner on Edsa in Cubao,. Quezon City, which all occurred on the same day.

In March 2001, National Bureau of Investigation agents tracked down the three men, tagging them as the ones that assembled the bombs used in the Dec. 30 attack.

The NBI built its case largely on the testimony of Camid Cabugatan, an MILF member from 1982 to 1995 and an explosives expert.

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Guard describes Strawberry's killer

By Christian V. Esguerra

A SECURITY guard yesterday claimed he saw the man who shot dead former child actress Strawberry in Las Piñas last December.

Marfie Arabani described to police the man as tall and stocky. He told police the man had repeatedly shot the car driven by Anouk "Strawberry" Baldo.

But SPD chief Jose Gutierrez yesterday doubted if Arabani were telling the truth.

"We really have to rely on the version of the independent witnesses," Gutierrez told the Inquirer.

Police said Arabani works for Combat Security, owned by the father of Strawberry's boyfriend Mark Doromal, who was with the former child actress during the traffic altercation with the family of businessman Raynaldo Picar. He and three other personnel from the security firm are facing attempted murder charges for allegedly shooting at the Picars, police said.

A composite investigating team yesterday went with Arabani to the scene of the crime, which is at the entrance of B.F. West Executive Village, to "re-enact" the fatal incident where Strawberry was killed.

The Southern Police District, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, and the National Bureau of Investigation were to determine who and how Strawberry was killed last Dec. 18.

Arabani claimed the gunman was positioned near the corner of R. Corpus and J. Elizalde streets when he fired at the black Mitsubishi Lancer driven by Strawberry.

He identified the gunman as one of the Picar brothers.

But one of the six "independent" witnesses told police the shots came from Doromal's security aides, who were supposedly waiting for an ambush beside a fence on Elizalde Street, according to Gutierrez.

He said the same witness issued a "damaging piece of evidence" against Doromal, who the witness claimed was scolding his security aides right after Strawberry's car was shot.

Army major shot dead by his wife

AN ARMY major was accidentally shot and killed by his wife on Tuesday in Taguig, police said yesterday.

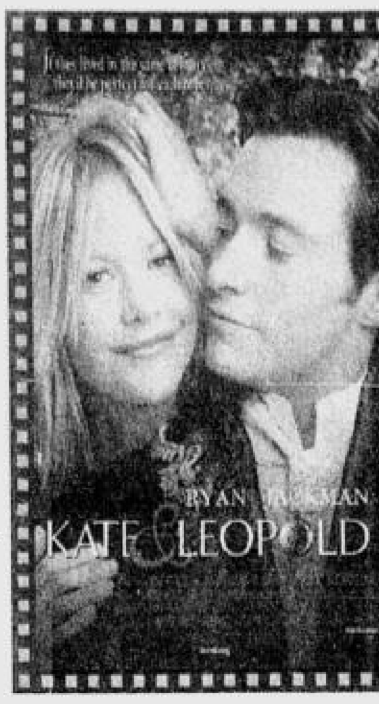
Major Felixberto Lantoza, 51, died of a gunshot wound in the left temple around 2 p.m. inside his barracks at Fort Bonifacio.

Lantoza and his wife Susan were reportedly playing with a .45 caliber pistol when the wife poked the gun at him and pulled the trigger, said PO2 Dennis Salapagio.

The wife didn't know that the gun was loaded, police said.

Investigators were however pursuing another lead which said the shooting was not accidental.

Christian Esguerra



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6 GOLD (SDDS)	KATE & LEOPOLD
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3	FROM HELL
4	ISANG PANAGINIP
5	REBULOSYONARYO

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3	HUSTLER
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6	FROM HELL

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1 (DOLBY)	
2	

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2	KAULAYAW
3 (DTS)	VANILLA SKY

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2 (DTS)	KATE & LEOPOLD
3 (DOLBY)	VANILLA SKY
4	FROM HELL

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3 (DTS)	FROM HELL
4	KATE & LEOPOLD

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3	SOON TO OPEN
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3 (DTS)	FROM HELL
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5	KATE & LEOPOLD

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3	KATE & LEOPOLD

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2	VANILLA SKY
3	KATE & LEOPOLD

Olivarez Tagaytay

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3	AMERICAN ADOBO

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2	
3	

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1 (DTS)	ISANG PANAGINIP
2 (DTS)	

Emperor

(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

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2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	AMERICAN ADOBO

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1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3	ISANG PANAGINIP
4	FINAL ANSWER

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3	VANILLA SKY
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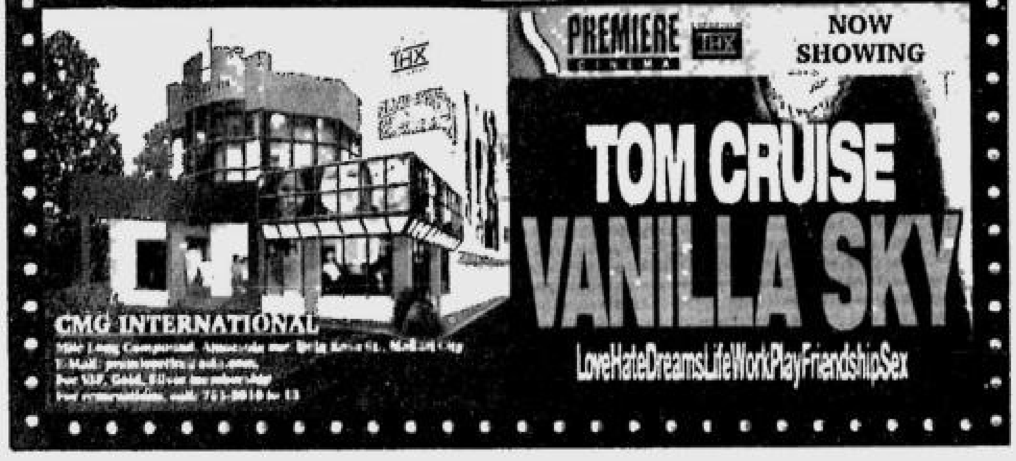

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632-0115-16 / 633-7641 loc. 270

1	VANILLA SKY
2	VANILLA SKY
3	THE OTHERS
4	MARSHALL DICK
5	BLACK HAWAK DOWN
6	FROM HELL
7	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8	ISANG PANAGINIP
9	REBULOSYONARYO
10	THE OTHERS

THX

ERMITA

536-7809 TO 12

1	VANILLA SKY
2	MARSHALL DICK
3	THE OTHERS
4	KATE AND LEOPOLD
5	ISANG PANAGINIP
6	BLACK HAWK DOWN
7	FROM HELL

METRO EAST

#682-8103, #682-8193 #682-8199, 682-8280

1	MARSHALL DICK
2	VANILLA SKY
3	THE OTHERS
4	KATE & LEOPOLD
5	BLACK HAWK DOWN
6	ISANG PANAGINIP
7	FROM HELL
8	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

NOVALICHES

935-3229 to 31

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	VANILLA SKY
3	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4	KATE AND LEOPOLD
5	ISANG PANAGINIP
6	FROM HELL
7	MARSHALL DICK
8	LORD OF THE RINGS

IMUS

(046) 471-0100

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	MARSHALL DICK
3	REBULOSYONARYO
4	VANILLA SKY
5	FROM HELL
6	KATE & LEOPOLD

BACOLOD

(034) 441-0453 / 0459

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	ISANG PANAGINIP
4	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5	BLACK HAWK DOWN
6	BUKO PANDAN

ILOILO

(033) 336-0077 / 0078

1	AMERICAN ADOBO
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3	ZOOLANDER
4	LORD OF THE RINGS
5	FINAL ANSWER
6	GIRL FEVER

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	FINAL ANSWER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	ISANG PANAGINIP
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	VANILLA SKY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	FROM HELL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	KATE AND LEOPOLD
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	MARSHALL DICK
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	KAULAYAW
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	HUSTLER
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SISID / TAILS OF EROTIKA
ODEON	FROM HELL
ODEON-2	MARSHALL DICK
ROBEN	KAULAYAW
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	DON'T SAY A WORD / GHOST FROM MARS

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	KAULAYAW
REMAR	KAULAYAW
REMAR-2	BLACK HAWK DOWN

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	HUSTLER
B	KAULAYAW
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	FROM HELL
CINEMA-2	VANILLA SKY

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	REBULOSYONARYO
CINEMA-2	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
CINEMA-3	KAULAYAW
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
CINEMA-6	FINAL ANSWER
CINEMA-7	HUSTLER
CINEMA-8	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	VANILLA SKY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	FROM HELL
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	BLACK HAWKDOWN
CINEMA-12	KATE & LEOPOLD
CINEMA-14	MARSHALL DICK
CINEMA-15	ISANG PANAGINIP

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
CINEMA-2	KATE & LEOPOLD
CINEMA-3	BLACK HAWK DOWN
CINEMA-4	FROM HELL
CINEMA-5	MARSHALL DICK
CINEMA-6	VANILLA SKY

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR

4173869

1	KAULAYAW
2	FROM HELL
3	VANILLA SKY
4	REBULOSYONARYO
5	BLACK HAWK DOWN
6	ISANG PANAGINIP
7	MARSHALL DICK
8	KATE & LEOPOLD

SM CENTERPOINT

7149522 -7191416

1	ISANG PANAGINIP
2	THE OTHERS
3	VANILLA SKY
4	MARSHALL DICK
5	BLACK HAWK DOWN
6	REBULOSYONARYO
7	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8	FROM HELL
9	KATE & LEOPOLD
10	KAULAYAW

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

9350749

1	REBULOSYONARYO
2	FINAL ANSWER
3	THE OTHERS
4	BLACK HAWK DOWN
5	MARSHALL DICK
6	ISANG PANAGINIP
7	VANILLA SKY
8	FROM HELL
9	KATE & LEOPOLD
10	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
11	HUSTLER
12	KAULAYAW

SM CITY MANILA

5239240

1	KATE & LEOPOLD
2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3	THE OTHERS
4	BLACK HAWK DOWN
5	FROM HELL
6	VANILLA SKY
7	FINAL ANSWER
8	HUSTLER
9	ISANG PANAGINIP
10	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
11	MARSHALL DICK
12	REBULOSYONARYO

SM MEGAMALL

6331901 • 6329401

1	THE OTHERS
2	FROM HELL
3	BLACK HAWKDOWN
4	VANILLA SKY
5	MARSHALL DICK
6	KATE & LEOPOLD
7	FINAL ANSWER
8	REBULOSYONARYO
9	ISANG PANAGINIP
10	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
11	KAULAYAW
12	HUSTLER

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9295452

1	FROM HELL
2	MARSHALL DICK
3	REBULOSYONARYO
4	ISANG PANAGINIP
5	KATE & LEOPOLD
6	VANILLA SKY
7	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8	BLACK HAWK DOWN
9	AMERICAN ADOBO
10	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
11	FINAL ANSWER
12	THE OTHERS

SM SOUTHMALL

8006088 • 8006782

1	MARSHALL DICK
2	FROM HELL
3	VANILLA SKY
4	KATE & LEOPOLD
5	KAULAYAW
6	THE OTHERS
7	ISANG PANAGINIP
8	BLACK HAWK DOWN
9	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
10	REBULOSYONARYO

SM CITY CEBU

2313876

1	KATE & LEOPOLD
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3	VANILLA SKY
4	CORKY ROMANO
5	EARTHQUAKE
6	FINAL ANSWER
7	ISANG PANAGINIP
8	LORD OF THE RINGS

SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

1	GIRL FEVER
2	CLOSED
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN
4	FINAL ANSWER
5	AMERICAN ADOBO
6	LORD OF THE RINGS
7	CLOSED
8	ZOOLANDER

SM CITY PAMPANGA

7128015

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	VANILLA SKY
3	THE OTHERS
4	FINAL ANSWER
5	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
6	ISANG PANAGINIP

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT

8294975

1	KATE & LEOPOLD
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3	VANILLA SKY
4	ISANG PANAGINIP

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE

8820905

1	KAULAYAW
2	VANILLA SKY
3	REBULOSYONARYO

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

2514302

1	VANILLA SKY
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	KATE & LEOPOLD
4	REBULOSYONARYO

SM CITY DAVAO

2974004

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	ZOOLANDER
3	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
4	LORD OF THE RINGS
5	FINAL ANSWER
6	KATE & LEOPOLD

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

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1
2
3
4

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THE PODIUM

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1
2

SOON TO OPEN!
2 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

6389781-85

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Musical extravaganza at Onstage Greenbelt

BAHAGHARI Productions presents "Illusione," a musical extravaganza featuring hits at Onstage in Greenbelt, Makati, with show dates on Feb. 22, 23, March 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, and 16.

"Illusione" is a show that will scintillate featuring grand production numbers of diva look-alikes performed by top Filipino impersonators including theater lunimaries Cocoy Palma and Jake Macapagal.

The show is directed by Fritz Ynfante, with Douglas Nierras as choreographer and hair stylist James Cooper as image consultant.

The lady producers behind Bahaghari Productions are Margie Moran-Floirendo, Nina Romualdez and Carmita Francisco, who recently went into a film production venture with Star Cinema for last December's Metro Manila Film Festival entry, "Bagong Buwan."

"Illusione" is co-presented by Dove and Sunday Inquirer Magazine. Sponsors are Diego Dalla-Palma Professional Make-up, Serge Louis Alvarez, Mario's Restaurant, Red Ribbon and Taters Stadia.

Radio partners are 105.1 Crossover, Joey@ 92.3, Wave 89.1, Citi Lite 88.3, 99.5 RT, K-Lite 103.5 and dwTM Magic 89.9.

Tickets priced at P600, P900 and P1,200 are now available at all Ticketworld outlets (891-5610), Music Museum (721-0635), Robinson's Place Manila (302-0113), Tower Records Alabang (850-5182) and Makati (892-9631), National Bookstore branches and at Onstage Ticketron.

"ILLUSIONE" director Fritz Ynfante (center) with choreographer Douglas Nierras (left) and image consultant James Cooper.

BAHAGHARI Productions producers (from left) Carmita Francisco, Nina Romualdez and Margie Moran Floirendo.

GRANADA

Valentine concert at Sky Lounge

AFTER a Valentine's dinner, visit Manila Diamond Hotel's Sky Lounge Music Bar and take a romantic musical ride with singer-actress Isabel Granada.

Tagged as the "Sentimental Diva," Isabel will render OPM songs like "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw," "Pangako," "Narito" and Kahit Isang Saglit."

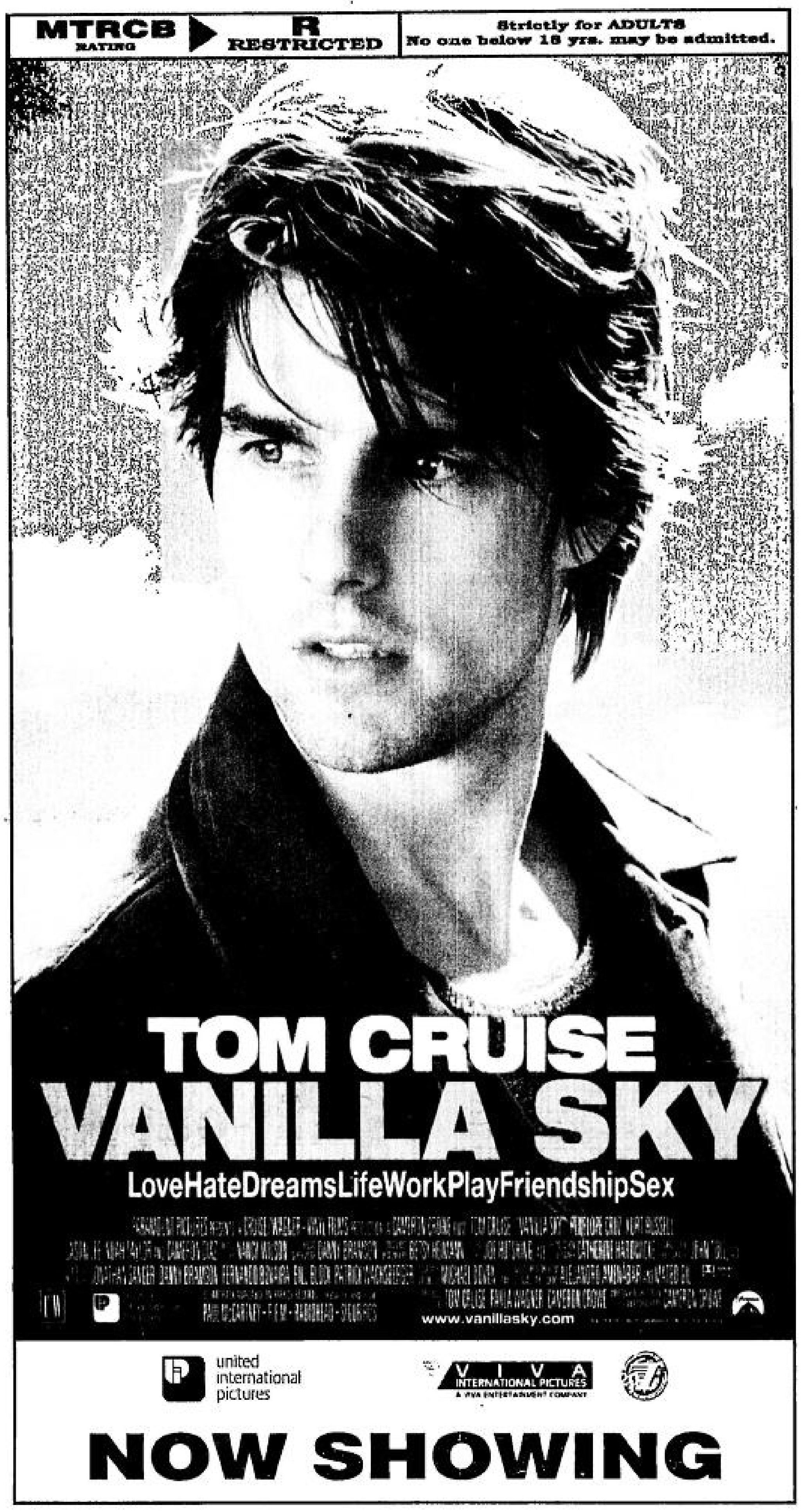
She will also perform hits by foreign artists like "Reasons," "I Don't Wanna Miss a Thing" and "I'll Never Say Goodbye," plus cuts from her recordings "In the Mood for Love" and a soon-to-be-released CD.

Isabel is a multi-talented lady. She has done a number of shows in and out of the country.

She has also proven her worth as actress when she won the Famas best supporting actress trophy for "Ligaya ang Itawag Mo sa Akin."

The Sky Lounge Music Bar is at the 27/F of Manila Diamond Hotel. It is open daily from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m.

For inquiries, call 526-2211.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GLORIETTA 1 formerly QUAD	GLORIETTA 4	GLORIETTA 4	GREENBELT	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 VANILLA SKY in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND	1 BLACK HAWK DOWN In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	5 THE OTHERS In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	1 FROM HELL In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	1 VANILLA SKY THX In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2 KATE & LEOPOLD In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	2 OCEAN'S ELEVEN In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	6 KATE & LEOPOLD In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND	2 VANILLA SKY in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND	2 KATE & LEOPOLD In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 HESUS REBULOSYONARYO In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	3 VANILLA SKY THX In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND	7 FROM HELL In DTS DIGITAL SOUND	3 KATE & LEOPOLD In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	3 BLACK HAWK DOWN In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP In DTS DIGITAL SOUND	4 MARSHALL DICK In DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film		4 PROMISES PROMISES FEB. 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16 - 9 PM Onstage	4 FROM HELL In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
				5 OCEAN'S ELEVEN In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

The Ayala malls Events
THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

MAKATI
AYALA CENTER MAKATI
Events Ad Box
Week of Feb. 11-17, 2002
VALENTINES DAY AT AYALA CENTER
- Romancin' G4 at Glorietta 4 Park
Feb. 11 / 6 pm Vina Morales
Feb. 12 / 6 pm Side A
- Comedy Club at Greenbelt Mall
Feb. 12 / 7 pm Jon Santos
Feb. 13 / 7 pm John Lapuz
- Moonlight Serenade at Greenbelt 2
Feb. 14 / 7 pm Ogie Alcasid
Feb. 15 / 7 pm Ariel Rivera
Chinese New Year at the Glorietta Activity Center
Enjoy a Chinese food festival from Feb. 12 to 16, 2002 featuring sumptuous dishes as presented by the following hotels: Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Makati Shangri-la, New World Renaissance, Mandarin Oriental Manila and The Peninsula Manila.

ALABANG
ALABANG TOWN CENTER EVENTS
Feb. 8-17
JO-LIZA FURNITURE FAIR
Activity Center
Feb. 10
APO HIKING SOCIETY & AGOT ISIDRO
VALENTINES DINNER SHOW - Town Plaza, 7 PM
Tickets available at ALMON MARINA, DELIFRANCE, DULCINEA, FAT TUESDAY, HERC'S & SAN MIG.
4 ticket holders will get a chance to win overnight stay for 2 at the MANDARIN ORIENTAL HOTEL
Feb. 13 & 14
DRAGON-LION DANCE
Mallwide, 2 PM
For inquiries please call ATC customer service at 842-2782

CEBU
CALENDAR AD
For the period of Feb. 1 to 3, 2002
Valentine Card Making & Cookie Decorating Contest
Feb. 3, 10 & 24, 2002
(3:30 PM, Activity Center)
USC Festival of the Arts
Feb. 1, 2002
(4:00 PM, Activity Center)
Fashion Show w/ Latin Band
Feb. 1, 2002
(6:30 PM, Lagoon Area)

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Ikaw Lamang Hanggang Ngayon
Starring CANDY PANGILINAN TANYA GARCIA
directed by YAM LARANAS
NGAYONG FEB. 13!

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Overaged sex kittens and slothful louts

VIEWFINDE

Nestor U. Torre

JENNY Jones' talk-forum show on Studio 23 (6:30 p.m., M-F) can be described as "Oprah" without the circumspection and sense of significance.

Where **Oprah Winfrey** pushes good books, self worth service to humanity, Jenny Jones brings in the overaged sex kittens and the slothful louts, and scratches some of the most basic itches known to man.

It's not as vile and exploitative as **Jerry Springer**, but not all that far-removed from that "master" of trashy television.

On two recent telecasts, "The Jenny Jones Show" zoomed in on two scruffy groups of people. The first was made up of middle-aged men who appeared to have forgotten how to dress well—or even to bathe!

The certified slobs weren't embarrassed by their appearance and smell, and even proudly displayed their sartorial idiosyncrasies as though they were modeling the latest fashions by Armani.

Of course, they turned the studio audience off in a major way, and their relatives begged them to change their scruffy ways. Finally acquiescing to their pitiful entreaties, the slobs underwent a "make-over" that stunned the audience: the slobs' long, matted hair was shorn off, they were bathed and given stylish clothes to wear, and they were transferred into dashing gents who bore absolutely no resemblance to their former selves!

Well, the audience went wild, and Jenny Jones congratulated herself once more for knowing how to push the right buttons to give her viewers a roaring good time.

The psychological appeal here was wish-fulfillment: the slobs in the TV audience, and especially their desperate relatives, loved the episode because it gave them hope that, in their own lives as well, the transformation could be pulled off, to everyone's delight.

Of course, real people don't have a battery of make-over experts at their beck and call—but they can dream, can't they?

The episode was so successful that, some days later, Jenny Jones followed up with a similar make-over episode for the ladies. This time around, the guests were middle-aged women who still dressed like sleazy sex kittens, embarrassing their children no end.

Well, the female guests really let it all hang out, stuffing their buxom figures into wee T-shirts and shorty-shorts that elicited whoops of amazement from the studio audience.

Like the male slobs, the overaged sex kittens were brazenly proud of their bimbette look, silencing protests with even more shocking antics.

Thankfully, the loud and lewd women also underwent a make-over than transformed them into surprisingly lovely and chic ladies whose new, more sedate look brought tears to the eyes of their relieved children.

But the punchline was, some of the women were not at all happy about their new and more sophisticated look, claiming that they had been robbed of their "verve" and "originality." Well, that's (low-life) human nature for you!

Jenny Jones' show scores plus points when it communicates little ironies like that. On the whole, however, it's concerned simply with turning the TV audience on by appealing to the least common denominator when it comes to taste—which can be ver low, indeed!

'Concert at the Park'

THIS month's treats on "Concert at the Park" (Sundays, 5 p.m. at Rizal Park) are: Feb. 10, a performance by the Quezon City Ballet of the Halili-Cruz School of Ballet. Feb. 17, the Kalilayang Folkloric Group from Catanauan, Quezon. Feb. 24, "Chinese Spring Festival," featuring performers from the Filipino Chinese Youth Educational Center.

"Concert at the Park" is telecast every Friday at 11 p.m. over Channel 4.

Love on 'Talk TV'

EVERY weekday morning at 10:30 a.m. on Channel 2 until Valentine's Day, "Talk TV" will focus on the topic of love in its various expressions and manifestations.

Hosts **Julius Babao, Tintin Bersola** and **Ryan Agoncillo** will feature the experiences and opinions of celebrities and non-show biz people alike—single women, mistresses, gays and lesbians, etc.

'THE GOLDEN BOWL'

Jeremy Northam and Uma Thurman star in "The Golden Bowl," a bittersweet tale of love, greed, seduction and manipulation from renowned author Henry James, to be screened at Greenbelt Artfilm starting Feb. 13. Also in the cast are Nick Nolte, Angelica Huston and Kate Beckinsale. Set in the early 1900s, the film recounts the lives of four people caught in a gilded web of love and money and how the golden bowl signifies the flaws in their seemingly perfect relationships. The movie is produced by Ismail Merchant and directed by James Ivory.

Joey: Love your kids more than your lovers

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

WHEN news broke that **Alma Moreno** and **Joey Marquez** have split up, I suddenly remembered what Joey used to tell me: "The only ones who will really love you and stick with you till the end are your kids so you must love them more than all the lovers you will ever have."

That's why I wasn't a bit surprised to find out that their kids are all staying with him and not with Alma.

I respect Joey's appeal for sobriety. It's just that as a long-time friend I can't help but share my sentiments about the issue. After all, Joey has always been there for me, especially during a turbulent episode in my life. That is not to say I'm blaming Alma. She has her reasons for leaving.

Soon, the Joey-Alma split-up will be just another statistic in the ever-growing list of show biz separations. But just because a marriage has ended does not mean that it failed. Both parties learned what they had to learn and hopefully the public will also pick up a thing or two about how to survive a break-up.

Some quarters insist that Joey finally got a dose of his own medicine. It's no secret that he had his wild days, especially when I first met him at the height of his PBA career. If it's any consolation, Joey has always been honest about his dishonesty. I got to know a lot of his girlfriends and all of them agreed that he really has a good heart.

Joey eventually mellowed although the *"babaero"* tag seems to be indelible already.

For her part, Alma really played a major role in Joey's political career. As another mayor's wife told me once, "during the vote counting, Alma practically lived in the barangay hall. She really watched closely. Joey could not have won without her support."

Alma is going through a lot, what with the recuperation of her son Vandolph from a car accident and her own bout with scioliosis. So let's go easy on her. Rumors about her young Cebuano paramour will either die a natural death or turn out to be true. For now let's just leave it at that.

As a separated woman myself, all I can say is that pain is an even better teacher than love. To Joey and Alma: May there come a time when the pain will be gone and all that you will have left are the beauty of the memories and the love. Always the love.

Looking good

IF your heart is in no shape to celebrate Valentine's Day, your body should at least be in tip-top form.

Why must you be as heavy as your heart is? Looking good is the best revenge!

So, before you go on a binge on all the V-day sweets, make sure you're "fat-proof." Find out more via 0916-431-8011. Just weigh and see!

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo,com or wateringhole2000@yahoo.com

Chill-out parties

FILIPINO DJ Don-Don Renato.

CHIVAS Regal brings together Asia's up and coming DJs in a CD collection and a series of chill out parties in Manila.

"Eastern Sunrise" is the first in a series of albums that brings together Asian musicians, with the unique ability to blend the sounds of Asia with all the textures and rhythms that belong to the world.

The chill out parties happen at Wherelse on Feb. 8, Raj on Feb. 16 and Wasabi on Feb. 23.

"The music on 'Eastern Sunrise' asks you to open your ears and your mind," says Hans Ebert, creative vice president of Universal Music and executive producer of the CD collection.

Proudly part of the "Easter Sunrise" collection is Filipino artist Don-Don Renato, also known as Houseboy. His song, "A Season for Flying," is the album's banner track.

Houseboy is a veteran DJ in Manila and ventured into electronic music and started playing Live Techno P.A. sets instead of records.

His creative influences on production get nourished on bands that play in his club in Malate called Verve Room.

Houseboy started being a DJ in Baguio at time a when the premiere summer spot was the leading venue to party. He moved to Manila and stayed for three years until he went to Sydney, Australia for further studies.

It is in Australia that he witnessed the power of music, performance and the great influence of DJs in the club scene and the music industry.

The first "Eastern Sunrise" album includes a track of Nelly Furtado's smash hit, "I'm Like a Bird," remixed with Asha Bhonsle's music to create an "electronic duet."

Chill out with Chivas Regal and "Eastern Sunrise" and get a chance to win a trip to Bali, Indonesia for two and a three-night accommodation in Bali's luxurious Puri Indah Resort, a stone's throw away from the famed Legian Beach.

"Eastern Sunrise" CD is available at Tower Records, Odyssey, Music One and all SM music stores in Metro Manila.

For more information, call Leah Caringal at 812-3542.

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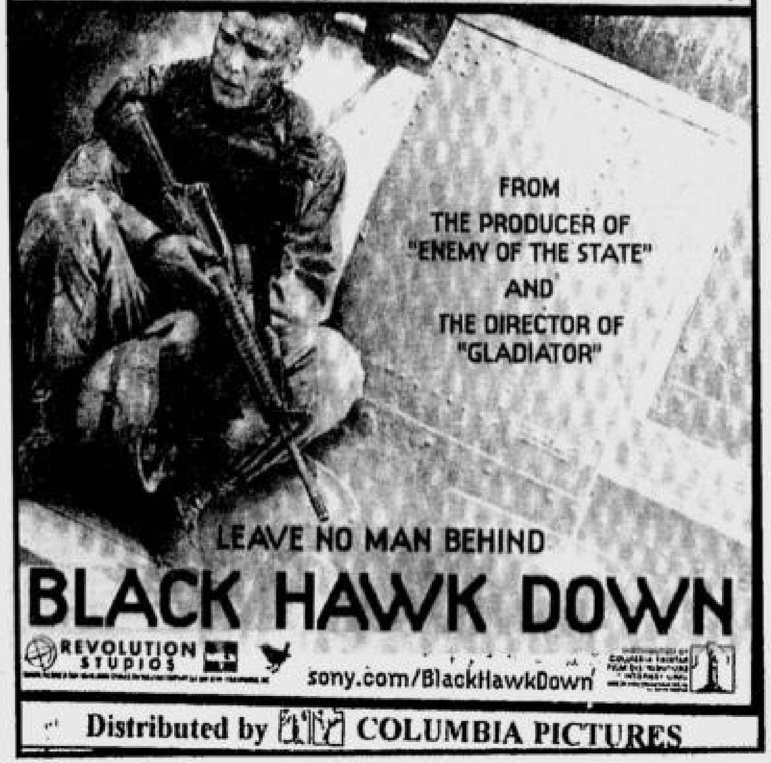
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

OCEAN'S ELEVEN - P13 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50	KATE & LEOPOLD - GP 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10	BLACK HAWK DOWN - P13 12:55, 3:50, 6:45, 9:40
FROM HELL - R 18 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50	MARSHALL DICK - P 13 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:30	VANILLA SKY - R 18 11:30, 2:00, 4:40, 7:25, 10:10

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

SECOND WEEK !
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
All-Star Cast! Josh Hartnett (PEARL HARBOR), Ewan McGregor (PHANTOM MENACE / MOULIN ROUGE) & Orlando Bloom (Legolas in LORD OF THE RINGS)



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the film event of the year will start on Feb 13!
FILMS FOR EVERYONE.
Amores Perros (Mexico, 2001)
Before Night Falls (USA, 2000)
Mysterious Objects at Noon (Thailand, 2001)
A Hard Day's Night (London, 1964)
Waray-Waray (Philippines, 1954)
Jack & Jill (Philippines, 1955)
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Independent Films
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for inquiries pls call 723 4058 or 727 1915
ika-9
PELIKULA
LIPUNAN
2002
February 13-19 SM Megamall
February 20-23 SM Iloilo
March 1-2 SM Pampangga
March 8-9 Baguio
SKYFILMS TODAY

If you're SMART we've got Amazing Perks for you this February!

side A
freestyle
BACK2BACK
LIVE ON TOUR

600 tickets to be given away!

Both SMART Gold & SMART Buddy subscribers have a chance to watch the Side A and Freestyle concerts for free! Feb. 8 & 9, Araneta Coliseum, Feb. 16, Cebu Sports Plaza, Feb. 23, Clark Expo.

100 tickets to Brian McKnight's Valentine concert to be given away!

If you're a lucky SMART Gold subscriber you could watch his February 14 concert in the Araneta Coliseum for free!

If you're a SMART subscriber you could get free tickets to some hot gigs. If you're on SMART Gold you just might catch Brian McKnight's Valentine concert featuring Regine Velasquez! Or you could get tickets to Side A and Freestyle's joint concerts! Lucky SMART Gold and SMART Buddy subscribers will be randomly selected, so just wait for our call. Plus, all SMART subscribers can enjoy loads of other gigs and gimmicks all this month and throughout the year! We even have fantastic discounts and privileges for SMART Money Cardholders. So have an amazing February with SMART!

Here are the other SMART gimmicks for this month.

For more details, visit the SMART booth at each venue.

Manila

Jenine Desiderio: Romancing the Eastwood

Feb. 14, Eastwood. 50 reserved seats for SMART subscribers and one companion each.

Cebu*

*Red Report at Mi Vida

Feb. 14 at Mi Vida, Cebu. 15 complimentary tickets for SMART subscribers. 10% off on food and drinks plus a free special drink for SMART Money Cardholders.

*Euphoria: Valentine's High Life Edition

Feb. 14, High Life at Crossroads. 5% off on food and drinks for SMART Money Cardholders. Plus, enjoy a free special drink.

Davao

Danni's Rhythm of Love featuring Spindrift

Feb. 13, Summit Bar. Free entrance for 40 SMART subscribers plus a free special drink.

Negros Oriental

Nahigugma Kuh ni Kuh Ledesma: Post Valentine Concert

Feb. 27, Bais Auditorium. Reserved seats for the first 250 SMART subscribers and one companion each.

Baguio*

*Valentine's Show at Pilgrims

Feb. 14, Pilgrims Bar. 5% discount when you pay using SMART Money, guaranteed seats for the first 10 SMART subscribers and one companion each. Plus, enjoy a free special drink.

*Gimbals

Feb. 14 & 15, Gimbals. 5% discount when you pay with SMART Money plus guaranteed seats for the first 10 SMART subscribers and one companion each. Plus, enjoy a free special drink.

*Amazing Nights at 18 B. C.

All Saturdays of Feb. (9, 16, 23) at 18 B.C. Reserved seats for the first 10 SMART subscribers and one companion each. 10% off when you pay with SMART Money. Plus, enjoy a free special drink.

*Amazing Nights at Cactus Bar

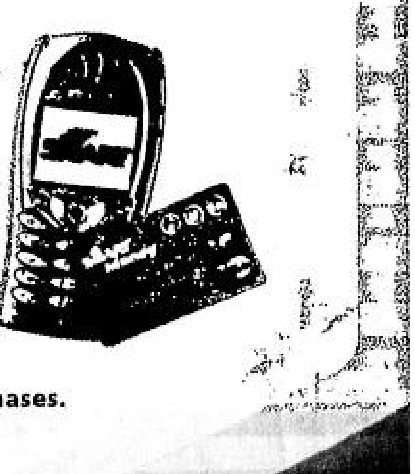
Feb. 14 & 15, Cactus Bar. Reserved seats for the first 10 SMART subscribers and one companion each. 15% off when you pay with SMART Money. Plus, enjoy a free special drink.

Watch out for more free invites, only for SMART subscribers.

* Promo period: Feb. 9 to March 2, 2002. You can only avail of the discounts and special privileges on the dates indicated above.

* Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0426 Series of 2002.

Plus, enjoy these great discounts and privileges when you pay with SMART Money!



Perks for February
- Marks & Spencer* - Get a 15% discount on all wine purchases in all outlets (This excludes wines that are included in Marks & Spencer's in-store promo).

Year-round perks
- Vudu, Cebu - 10% discount on food and drinks.
- Suburbia Bar, Malate, Manila - No more consumable fee on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 50% off on the consumable fee on Saturdays.
- IO Family KTV, Jupiter St., Makati - Free one hour for every two hours paid (Except on Fridays).
- Bistro Remedios, Malate, Manila - 5% discount on food and drinks.
- Cable Car, Glorietta - 15% discount on food purchases.
- Café Havana, Malate - 5% discount on food purchases.
- Café Ysabel, San Juan - 10% discount on food purchases.

*Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0386 Series of 2002.

SMART

Simply Amazing!

○●○○○○○○○○○○

BUSINESS

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** ◈ *Assistant Editor* **Corrie S. Narisma**

US energy firm readies IPO for RP unit

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ENERGY firm Mirant Corp. has committed to have its local subsidiary listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange this year.

Energy Secretary Vicente Perez Jr. yesterday said President Macapagal-Arroyo and Mirant chief executive officer Marce Fuller agreed on this during a meeting in New York last week.

"Given that the local stock market is doing very well and that Mirant Philippines had been the biggest net earner (in the country), we feel this year is a good time for an initial public offering," Perez said.

Mirant Philippines reported a net income of about P8.6 billion in 2000, the biggest for any corporation in the country that year.

"We have not discussed any specifics, but this could be one of the largest listings on the local stock exchange this year," the secretary added.

He said the government hoped other independent producers would follow Mirant's example.

Asked whether the listing would affect the planned privatization of the IPP contracts, he said: "I don't think there would be any."

Mirant Philippines vice president Allan Paul Flake said an IPO had always been part of the firm's business plans.

"We still have not decided on how much to offer, but this would be around 10 percent," Flake said in a telephone interview.

He said Mirant might do the IPO within the year "if we finish the whole process."

Flake noted that it took other companies years to realize an IPO.

Mirant is the country's biggest power producer with installed capacities adding up to a total of 2,500 megawatts.

These include 218 mw in Sual, 735 mw in Pagbilao, 210 mw in Navotas I, 100 mw in Navotas II and 15 mw in Bulacan.

Mirant is also involved in the $710-million, 1,200-megawatt Ilijan power project in Batangas.

The Ilijan facility is the biggest of three power plants that will source fuel from the Malampaya natural gas field.

The firm also committed late last year to spend about P1 billion for the energization of 1,000 barangays in support of the government's rural electrification program.

Previously, the firm energized 90 barangays in Camarines Sur and Quezon provinces.

Forex reserves hit all-time high of $16.31B

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COUNTRY'S dollar reserves rose to an all-time high of $16.308 billion in end-January, up by more than $600 million from the previous month's level as the government went on a borrowing binge to take advantage of declining interest rates.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday said the healthy level of the gross international reserves would further ensure that the peso would remain stable at the 51-to-a-dollar level this year.

From $15.7 billion, the dollar reserves rose in January after the government completed a $760-million, 15-year global bond issue while the BSP increased the size of its four-year Euro bonds by $300 million from the $500 million it had tapped last year.

A strong GIR assures the country's trading partners that it could pay its debts and imports. This, in turn, could further improve the confidence of foreign investors and creditors in the Philippines.

A GIR level of $16.308 billion is enough to pay for nearly five months' worth of imports and could settle almost thrice the amount of the debts maturing within a one-year period.

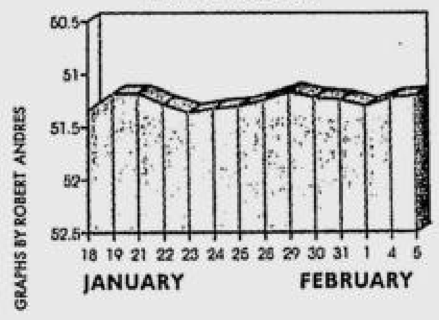
"If the government could push its dollar reserves some more, it would strengthen the country's bid to finally get an investment grade rating," said an analyst from a local bank.

Global rating agencies Moody's Investors Service, Standard & Poor's, and Fitch rate the country a notch below investment grade. Moody's, however, had revised its rating outlook for the Philippines from negative to stable leaving only S&P with a negative outlook.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



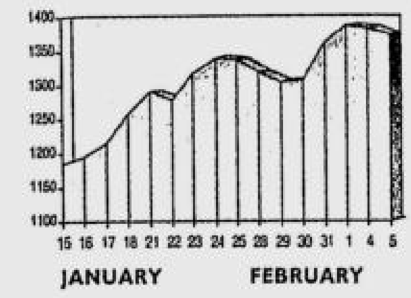
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱51.20 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 6,2002

¥133.92 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 6, 2002

GOLD: $296.40/296.90
per ounce Hong Kong,
Feb. 6,2002

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCK MARKET

Shares end mixed

SHARES closed mixed yesterday, with the main index losing ground on profit-taking in blue chips and concern over the fate of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho in the wake of a controversy surrounding a bond sale last year, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended below its 1370-point support with a 5.26-point, or 0.4 percent, loss to 1367.48, following Tuesday's 0.8 percent decline. The index has fallen 1.4 percent since Monday.

But gainers led decliners 52 to 34, while 28 issues were unchanged as bargain-hunting persisted in a number of issues.

Turnover rose to 826 million shares worth P630 million compared to 772 million shares worth P344 million on Tuesday. *AP*

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MONARCH
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SM City, Iloilo City

CHRONOS
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Rockwell Center

GREENHILLS WATCH CENTER
-G/F, Virra Mall,
Greenhills Shopping Center

LUCERNE JEWELLERS
-G/F, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center
-Level 2, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
-Level 2, Mega B, SM Megamall
-Level 2, Expansion Mall,
Alabang Town Center
-G/F, Ayala Center, Cebu

HOUR GLASS CENTER
-Level 2, Mega A, SM Megamall

RUSTAN'S SILVER VAULT
-Rustan's Makati, Ayala Center

TIME TREND CENTER
-Upper G/F, Mega B,
SM Megamall
-Ground Level, SM City, Manila

WASHINGTON JEWELRY EMPORIUM
-Level 3, Mega B, SM Megamall
-G/F, SM City, Manila
-North Mall, Alabang Town Center
-G/F, Ali Mall
-G/F, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center
-G/F, Harrison Plaza

WASHINGTON WATCHES & JEWELRIES
-G/F, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
-Level R1, Power Plant Mall,
Rockwell Center

Blind debt

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

PEOPLE can no longer stop laughing at the Department of Transportation and Communications. It's because the DOTC boss himself, Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez, aka "Bebot," loves to boast about himself in public. Every chance he gets, which is a lot, simply because he has this serious media campaign, Bebot announces that, as a Cabinet member, he is actually useless.

I am not kidding. That is the line of Bebot's media campaign. He is useless. He probably thinks it's the line that can win over the Commission on Appointments. The CA has snubbed Bebot's confirmation so many times even media people are already losing count of the times the CA by-passed him.

Gloriaetta doesn't even lift just her left pinkie to help him, much less arrange for him a blind date, apparently because she also heard a lot about that side of him. Word from Malacañang Pala, este, Palace, is that Gloriaetta wants Bebot to follow the principles of democracy. He must campaign for himself and by himself.

* * *

ANYWAY, the biggest issue against Bebot is the Naia Terminal 3. To build it, his very own department, the DOTC, has a contract with a private firm called Piatco. The contract stinks worse than my breath after I eat a shipload of garlic. The arrangement is so lopsided it's like Piatco is treating the public to daytime robbery. Even Bebot admits as much. In his own media campaign, he says the contract has "onerous provisions." So what does he do? He simply washes his hands off them.

The contract is already a "done deal," Bebot loves to say in his media campaign, and the whole thing is already up to the court. In other words, it's up to you to sue Piatco. Without letup, Bebot keeps on harping that the DOTC entered into the contract not in his time. Clearly, he cannot do anything to change it. Ergo, he is useless.

* * *

KUYA Eddie's boys, it is true, awarded the contract to Piatco. The thing got several amendments, it is also true, during the time of the man named Band . . . Wrist Band.

Even if the amendments are now much thicker than the original contract, poor Bebot, he can't do anything about them. He can only introduce some more amendments. They are good for Piatco. Under the original contract, for example, Piatco supposedly must build a tunnel between Naia 3 and Naia 2. At its own expense!

During the time of Bebot, the plan disappears mysteriously. Replacing it now is a new plan to build a long and winding elevated road between the two terminals. Guess who must spend for it! It's not Bebot, surely, because he is useless. It's not Piatco either.

Whadayano, it is going to be the government. There go our taxes!

* * *

BUT probably Bebot only allows such an amendment because he is useless. He cannot do anything. Piatco, therefore, can get away with anything and everything.

Actually, one of those several amendments gave birth to a beautiful formula. It's only one whole page, and it dictates—a la Marcos—how much Piatco can charge for fees.

That's where we come in as milking cows. The formula has a single little letter of the alphabet. It stands for the DEBTS of Piatco. So the fees take all its debts into account.

For the sake of certain senators, such as my idol, Nene Pimentel, who, according to Bebot's media releases, thinks Bebot is godsent, the formula simply means we're dead. All the debts of Piatco, no matter how much, no matter how they are used, whether they go into the project or into somebody's pockets, must be charged on us.

It all boils down to something onerous, indeed. And that is, we only have to pay for everything blindly. What is that—blind debt?

* * *

NOW, originally, Naia 3 should cost about $350 million or so. Recently, a publication in Germany put the total cost at more than $650 million already.

Where will—or did, as in past tense, meaning, a "done deal"—the $300 million go? Whatever, *basta*, we pay for it, based on that nice formula in the nice amendments.

Yet the DOTC secretary, aka "Bebot," cannot do anything about it. He is that useless! So what about you calling for an audit of the whole damned thing, bossing?

Frankly, I promised somebody, the fifth in a series of PRs who wanted to silence me about Bebot and/or Piatco, I would praise him to high heavens—on one condition. He simply calls for an audit of the terminal project. An honest-to-goodness audit! Perhaps even done by an international firm! Then we can all sleep soundly at night.

* * *

AS it is, we only get from Bebot nothing but his admission that he is useless. It's already a done deal! All right, if it's a done deal, why worry about an audit?

Let's even say Bebot is correct, and he cannot do anything about the contract, despite all of its, well, in Bebot's own words, "onerous provisions." Why can't he go to court himself? It's his job, isn't it, being the Cabinet member in charge of the project, to protect our interest? Look, boss, it's onerous!

So he just takes all of it sitting down and instead of doing something, he lobbies hard with the CA for his confirmation, even launching a media campaign.

Why can't he put the same effort into fighting something onerous? If only to show his disgust, he should run amuck or run naked in public or something.

* * *

BUT no, our dear Bebot does not do anything of that sort. Even if it is meant to protect our interest, he cannot even say anything remotely damaging to Piatco.

Simply because the DOTC did the contract not in his time, Bebot does not mind admitting that, as a Cabinet member, he is actually useless. If that's the case, and he can't do anything for us, the people, who pay for it all, the CA is wasting time for the hearing of the confirmation of such a useless piece of . . .

Filinvest OKs ₱1.2-B bond issue

By Doris C. Dumlao

HOUSING developer Filinvest Land Inc. has approved the issuance of up to P1.2 billion worth of convertible bonds to a foreign institutional investor in order to help refinance maturing obligations.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, FLI said its board had approved the issuance of bonds convertible to the company's common shares.

Analysts estimated that the convertible bonds would dilute existing shares in FLI, one of the country's oldest and largest residential real estate developers, by about 15 percent.

The company said in the disclosure that the bonds could be converted any time within five years from the date of issuance at the option of the holder.

The premium for the bonds will be equivalent to the share's weighted average market price during the 30 trading days immediately proceeding the date of bond issue plus 10 percent. However, the amount should not be less than P1.70 or more than P1.875 per share.

FLI issued about $100 million worth of convertible bonds in 1997 with a redemption premium of 30 percent upon maturity. About $65 million of the remaining bond obligations are maturing this month.

The new bond issue forms part of a package of measures FLI has been preparing to address its debts.

The INQUIRER reported earlier that FLI was selling P2 billion worth of receivables to help cover its dollar-denominated bonds maturing this month.

Property analysts said the cash-raising ventures should assure the market that FLI would keep its good credit standing despite the continued slump in the property sector. They warned, however, that the sale of FLI's receivables could result in a slightly lower bottom line owing to lower interest income from the company's housing projects.

Philippine Rating Services Corp. has maintained its "Aa" rating for FLI's long-term commercial papers. The rating indicates that the issuer has "strong capability for timely repayment of principal and interest on its obligations."

"The rating on Filinvest's debt issue is based on the company's above-average business profile stemming from its position as a large and established homebuilder with a prudent operating strategy," Philratings said.

PSE urged to lift Urban shares trading suspension

By Elena R. Torrijos

EXPORT and Industry Bank will ask the Philippine Stock Exchange to lift the suspension on the trading of Urban Bank's shares following the approval of their three-way merger with Urbancorp Investments Inc.

The merger, which was approved by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Securities and Exchange Commission last week, paves the way for the rehabilitation of the Urban group. Publicly listed Urban Bank was the surviving entity in this merger. It was, however, renamed Export and Industry Bank.

Export and Industry Bank president Benjamin Castillo said that the bank would now focus on getting its shares traded again.

The merger was in line with the memorandum of agreement signed in August last year by the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., which called for the rehabilitation of the Urban group as proposed by Export and Industry Bank and Urban Bank's depositors and creditors.

The trading of Urban Bank shares was suspended when the bank was shut down in April 2000 due to financial difficulties.

Castillo said the merged institution would be the 22nd largest among 44 commercial banks in the country with P30 billion in assets.

He expressed confidence that the bank would be able to meet its P200 million net income target under the rehabilitation plan.

Castillo said the bank would open this month three of the 28 erstwhile Urban Bank branches in Cebu, Alabang and Bacolod. Another three will be opened next month. Urban bank's head office branch reopened earlier.

Under the plan, the bank will reopen only eight branches this year. It said it would defer the opening of the 20 remaining branches until the economic environment improved.

JG Summit unit completes bond float worth $100M

JG Summit Ltd., a unit of conglomerate JG Summit Holdings Inc., announced the completion of its four-year bond issue worth $100 million, the issue arranger ING Group said yesterday.

Company officials have said the proceeds of the bond float would finance a telecommunications venture and boost the resources of its flagship Universal Robina Corp.

"We are extremely pleased to announce that we have completed the funding for this transaction, and we will now be able to use the proceeds to continue with the further development of our company," JG Summit chair and chief executive James Go said in a statement issued by ING.

The bond issue, launched last week and due in February 2006, was priced at 502 basis points over off-the-run US Treasury 5.625 percent with a coupon rate of 9.25 percent.

JG Summit Ltd. is JG Summit's wholly owned subsidiary registered in the British Virgin Islands.

ING Debt Products is the sole arranger and bookrunner for the transaction. The $100-million bond issue marked the second deal ING has arranged for the company in the last six months. The first was a $102.3-million syndicated debt facility launched for JG Summit Philippines which was closed in September last year.

The JG Summit group holds leading positions in several industries through its subsidiaries involved in branded consumer food, retail operations, real estate and telecommunication services. **AFP**

GOINGS-ON

Picpa's SFAS briefing

THE METRO Manila region of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants, headed by Rosalinda D. Evangelista, is holding a briefing on the Statement of Financial Accounting Standards tomorrow, Feb. 8, at the Valle Verde Country Club, Pasig City.

Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Lilia R. Bautista will be the guest speaker with lawyer Abelardo T. Domondon, 2001 World Bank consultant, as the resource person.

The briefing will tackle all standards covered by SEC Memo Circular No. I; that mandates corporations to start using this year the new and revised SFAS.

Estanislao on national agenda

FORMER Finance Secretary Jesus P. Estanislao is scheduled to deliver today the 34th St. Thomas More lecture of the Faculty of Arts and Letters of the University of Santo Tomas at 2 p.m. at the auditorium of the St. Thomas Aquinas Research Complex.

Estanislao, president and CEO of the Institute of Corporate Directors and Institute for Solidarity in Asia, will lecture on "Crafting a National Agenda or Framework of Governance for the Republic."

Arts and Letters Dean Armando de Jesus said the lecture is the college's contribution to the celebration of the 391st anniversary of UST.

Country Style's expansion

THE LOCAL unit of Country Style donuts of Canada, which is owned and operated by Megalicious Foods Corp., announced that it would open four new retail stores every month this year in line with its expansion program.

Established in June of 1996, Country Style now has more than 40 locations in Metro Manila. It recently opened outlets in SM Sucat and Robinsons Galleria.

Megalicious has also opened Country Style to prospective franchisees. The move is expected to double its existing outlets in the Philippines.

Prospective franchisees may visit MFC-Country Style main with the following documents: letter of intent; vicinity map showing the area around the proposed site; picture of the proposed site and duly accomplished application form.

DISCLOSURES

INTERPORT Resources Corp. advises the subscribers of its aborted 1986 and 1998 pre-emptive rights offering to get the refund of their payments from **Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.'s** trust and investment division. The offering was set aside due to weak market condition.

* * *

MEGAWORLD Corp. clarified that although it was in talks with California-based **Linksys Group** for the setting up of call centers in Eastwood City Cyberpark, no final agreement has been reached.

* * *

PHILCOMSAT Holdings Corp. announced that it had terminated the services of **SGV & Co.** as external auditor due to its refusal to finalize and submit the company's 2000 financial statements. Vicente E. Reyes and Associates replaced SGV.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Seven Corp. announced the election of Yeong Hsiang Yeh as director of the company replacing Yen-Sen Yang who resigned.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Philippine Tobacco Flue-Curing & Redrying Corp.** were Alonzo Ancheta, Cesar Battung, Carlos Dominguez, Conrado Gozun, Emmeline Huang, Jose Leviste Jr., Patricio Lim, Bienvenido Tan Jr. and Bienvenido Tan III.

* * *

STENIEL Manufacturing Corp. denied having any information that could explain the decline of its share price from P0.50 to P0.30. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, February 6, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	1,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	67	67	67	67	629,000
China Banking Corp.	560	560	560	560	100
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	27.5	28	27.5	27.5	530,500
First E-Bank Corp.	1.96	1.96	1.72	1.72	58,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	208	209	206	207	90,140
Philippine National Bank	77	79	77	79	22,200
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.,	13	13.5	13	13.25	30,400
Security Bank Corp.	19.25	19.25	19	19	12,600
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.25	19.25	18.25	18.25	527,100
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.28	1.28	365,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	100,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1300	1310	1300	1310	3,460
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1050	1050	1045	1050	13,650
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	34.5	34.5	34	34	6,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.57	0.57	1,800,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	770	775	770	775	12,960
Ipeople Inc.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	20,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.037	0.04	0.037	0.04	9,400,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	8,000
Piltel	0.47	0.52	0.47	0.48	13,830,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.34	280,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	515	515	505	505	144,080
Ivantage Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	20,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.023	42,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	26.5	27.5	26.5	27	56,300
Manila Electric Co. B	39	39	38.5	38.5	288,100
Petron Corp.	1.88	1.94	1.84	1.84	8,270,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	60,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.95	3.05	2.95	3	3,209,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	100,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36	710,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.5	100,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	660,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	14.25	14.75	14.25	14.5	930,100
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	23.5	23.75	23.5	23.75	117,000
RFM Corp.	1.72	1.78	1.72	1.72	4,587,000
San Miguel Corp. A	45.5	45.5	45.5	45.5	69,400
San Miguel Corp. B	61.5	62.5	61.5	62	262,800
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.2	1,978,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.74	1.8	1.74	1.78	3,723,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.83	0.86	0.83	0.84	650,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	236,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.3	0.35	0.3	0.35	70,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.8	0.82	0.78	0.79	17,820,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	10,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.43	0.46	0.43	0.45	2,620,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	680,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	300,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.06	1.1	1.02	1.02	3,075,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	30.5	30.5	30	30	268,700
Global Equities Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.19	3,000,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	100,000
Ionics Inc.	8.6	8.8	8.6	8.8	27,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.82	1.84	1.82	1.84	123,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	1,400,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.83	0.84	1,750,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	50,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.35	0.35	12,390,000
Music Corp.	0.31	0.33	0.31	0.32	4,660,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	120,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	160,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	210,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Federal Chemicals Inc.	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.6	10,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	40,000
Macondray Plastics Inc.	1.5	2.75	1.5	2.75	3,000
Pryce Corp.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	1,400,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14	14	14	14	65,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.44	0.45	0.44	0.44	2,000,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.61	0.61	0.6	0.6	90,000
Manila Jockey Club	10	10	10	10	4,057,600
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.46	0.46	2,480,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	6,433,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	35	35	34	34	40,000
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	48,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	750	775	750	775	1,570
Jollibee Warrants	14	14.5	14	14.5	55,400
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0016	0.0016	0.0014	0.0016	225,000,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.0065	0.0065	0.0055	0.0055	2,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.4	13,095,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	200,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	1,010,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.45	0.47	0.45	0.47	1,710,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	5,850,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.38	2.48	2.24	2.26	38,168,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	800,000
SM Development Corp.	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.8	4,303,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	5,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	10,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	20,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.041	0.041	0.039	0.039	16,600,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.205	0.23	0.205	0.22	4,990,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.22	0.235	0.22	0.235	15,540,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0044	0.0044	0.004	0.004	15,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	10,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0044	0.0046	0.0044	0.0044	45,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	1,600,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.24	0.28	0.24	0.26	3,770,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.29	0.32	0.29	0.31	6,650,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.022	0.022	0.021	0.021	3,500,000
Interport Res.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	4,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	30,000
Pacifica	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	3,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.085	0.085	0.0825	0.0825	1,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	2,385,150	107,305,225.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	622,766,010	308,721,185.00
PRO	65,236,000	205,303,100.00
Mining	124,180,000	8,795,000.00
OIL	11,530,000	231,950.00
GRAND TOTALS :	826,097,160	630,356,460.00

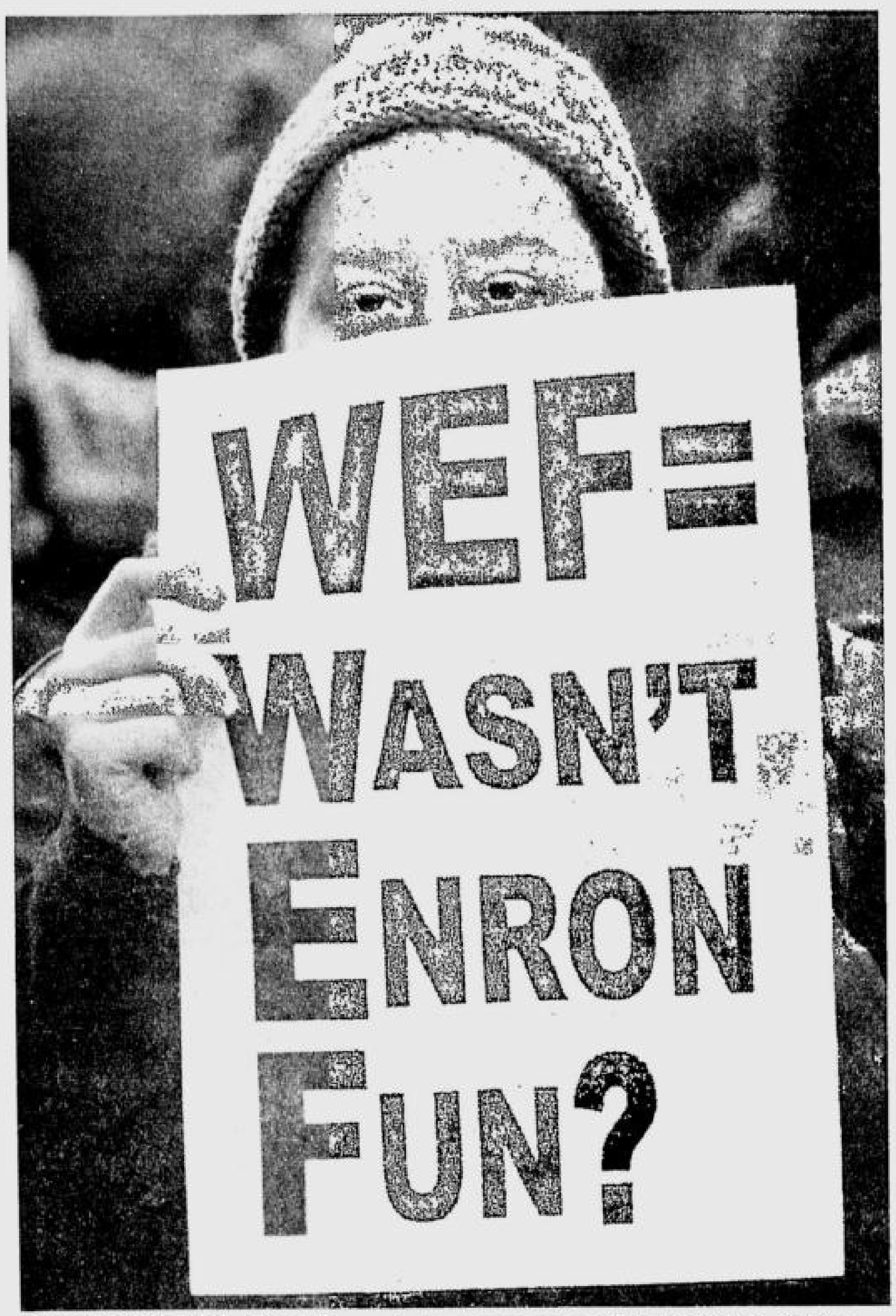
	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	560.25	UP 2.13
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,856.42	DOWN 18.70
PRO	601.35	DOWN 1.91
Mining	1,434.01	UP 101.77
OIL	1.97	DOWN 0.02
All Shares Index	737.41	UP 8.39
Composite	1,367.48	DOWN 5.26

NO. OF ADVANCES: 52; NO. OF DECLINES: 34; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 28; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 114
NO. OF TRADES: 3,895

CURRENCIES

Feb. 6, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.152605	1.000000	51.1690
Japan	Yen	0.008609	0.007469	0.3822
United Kingdom	Pound	1.631973	1.415900	72.4502
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.147784	0.128217	6.5607
Switzerland	Franc	0.679122	0.589206	30.1491
Canada	Dollar	0.721822	0.626253	32.0447
Singapore	Dollar	0.628294	0.545108	27.8926
Australia	Dollar	0.586568	0.508906	26.0402
Bahrain	Dinar	3.057470	2.652661	135.7340
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.307354	0.266660	13.6447
Brunei	Dollar	0.627575	0.544484	27.8607
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000112	0.000097	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.026214	0.022743	1.1637
UAE	Dirham	0.313890	0.272331	13.9349
Korea	Won	0.000882	0.000765	0.0391
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.867600	44.3942
Brazil	Real	0.476086	0.413052	21.1355
Denmark	Kroner	0.134650	0.116822	5.9777
India	Rupee	0.023766	0.020619	1.0551
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.303358	0.263193	13.4673
Mexico	New Peso	0.126396	0.109661	5.6112
New Zealand	Dollar	0.479852	0.416320	21.3027
Norway	Kroner	0.127321	0.110464	5.6523
Pakistan	Rupee	0.019227	0.016681	0.8536
South Africa	Rand	0.099431	0.086266	4.4141
Sweden	Kroner	0.108384	0.094034	4.8116
Syria	Pound	0.022468	0.019493	0.9974
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.033036	0.028662	1.4666
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001501	0.001302	0.0666



AN OPPONENT of the World Economic Forum protests against Enron Corp. in New York. At least 100 protesters rallied outside the Manhattan offices of Enron accountants Arthur Andersen. REUTERS

White House sees economic recovery later this year…

WASHINGTON—A White House economic panel on Tuesday predicted a gradually accelerating US economic recovery this year but pointed to the need of enhancing homeland security, removing trade barriers and fixing the nation's retirement system to ensure long-term prosperity.

The Council of Economic Advisers' analysis and recommendations were presented in its 441-page annual economic report to President George W. Bush, who forwarded it to the US Congress.

In a letter to lawmakers, Bush said US economic growth was "unacceptably slow" and urged them to develop an agenda for strengthening the nation's economic security.

"Our vision must extend beyond America, engaging other countries in the virtuous cycle of free trade, raising the potential for global growth, and securing the gains from worldwide markets in goods and capital," Bush wrote.

The council predicted that, following a string of interest rate cuts and a tax-reduction package signed into law last year, the United States was poised to return to real gross domestic product growth early this year, reaching an annual GDP growth rate of 2.7 percent by the end of 2002.

Backing up this forecast, it said, were "lean" industrial inventories at the end of 2001, which, given continued consumer demand, will force manufacturers to rev up production to replenish their stocks.

In an indication that this process may be already under way, the Commerce Department reported earlier Tuesday that US factory orders for manufactured goods rose 1.2 percent in December from the previous month, after decreasing a revised 3 percent in November.

Inflation will remain under control at 1.9 percent over the four quarters of 2002, the council said.

But unemployment was expected to continue to grow through the middle of the year and reach about 6 percent before starting to decline. *AFP*

BUSH: Unacceptably slow.

. . . But corporate titans doubt outlook

NEW YORK—Talk of an economic rebound fills North America's boardrooms, but some US corporate heavyweights are casting a pall over hopes for a speedy recovery.

Several top global companies recently suggested that those forecasting a recovery during the second half of the year might be living a fantasy—offering cheery predictions despite the harsher reality.

Corporate giants such as General Electric Co., IBM Corp. and Unilever Plc., whose businesses span dozens of industries, have been more conservative than some struggling rivals, which are pinning hopes on a rebound this year, and even more conservative than many leading economists.

"A lot of companies are gun shy at this point after having talked about things turning up in a quarter or two and then this not happening," said Chuck Hill, director of research at Thomson Financial/First Call.

"You are making these grand predictions about how quickly things will turn around and you get burned a few times," he said.

A slew of cautious forecasts run against the standard view held by most economists, who on average expect the US economy as measured by gross domestic product, to generate growth of 2.6 percent in 2002.

Economists polled by Reuters last month on average said they expected GDP growth of 3.4 percent in the third quarter and 3.7 percent in the fourth quarter.

But GE, the world's largest company by stock market capitalization, has repeatedly said it does not assume a bounceback in the economy this year. What's more, the global powerhouse is not planning for one, opting instead to offer Wall Street profit guidance that excludes a recovery. *Reuters*

Europe upbeat, worries linger over US recovery

NEW YORK—Upbeat reports showing a pickup in Europe's services sector and a rise in orders for US manufactured goods were tempered on Tuesday by data showing nascent growth in the vast US services sector stalled, raising concerns over the strength of the global economy.

While hopes abound that the US economy will soon recover from recession, political woes in Japan and a downgrade by the world's two top ratings agencies of some of the country's top banks have added to worries its current slump may deepen.

The US Commerce Department said factory orders rose 1.2 percent in December, lifted by transportation and military orders, to $322.2 billion after a revised 4.3-percent decline in November. It was the second rise in the last three months and was mostly in line with forecasts.

Separately, the Institute for Supply Management, an industry trade group, said its non-manufacturing index edged lower to 49.6 in January from a revised 50.1 in December. That followed two straight months of rises and bucked economists' forecasts of a rise to 52.

Together, the data helped to solidify a view outlined last week by the US Federal Reserve that despite hopeful signs of improvement in recent months, there remained significant risks to further economic weakness in the months ahead.

"We are having a bottoming out of a recession process, the beginning of a recovery process," said Neal Soss, chief US economist at Credit Suisse First Boston in New York. "But I don't think the recovery will be red-hot."

Last week, the Fed left its short-term key interest rate at a 40-year low of 1.75 percent. Most analysts expect the central bank to keep borrowing costs low until at least midyear as the economy picks up steam.

Another report from outplacement firm Challenger, Gray and Christmas showed layoff announcements surged by 32 percent to 212,704 in January from 161,584 in the prior month, raising concerns a recent stabilization in first-time unemployment claims could prove fleeting. *Reuters*

Japan gov't, BOJ eye emergency action plan

TOKYO—The government and Bank of Japan are likely preparing a joint offensive to offset a financial crisis, according to analysts, but only a slight shift in monetary policy is expected from the central bank's meeting this week.

Pressure on Japan to resolve its economic woes, aggravated by fierce deflation and a banking sector stricken with bad loans, would increase at a Group of Seven gathering of finance ministers Friday, they added.

"The Bank of Japan is meeting on Thursday and Friday and is expected to take some kind of action to prevent a worst case scenario," said JP Morgan chief economist Masaaki Kanno.

"If the situation is seen as really bad then it (the central bank) might call for joint action with the government," he said.

Japanese stock, bond and foreign exchange markets have plunged in recent weeks as investors "sell Japan" amid mounting economic gloom and fears a slump in confidence in Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi may derail his plans for structural reforms, analysts said.

"The depreciation of the yen has entered a dangerous zone and people are imagining the collapse of the financial markets," said chief economist at Credit Suisse First Boston Yasushi Okada.

Tokyo's Nikkei-225 index hit an 18-year low Tuesday and would likely fall further unless the government outlines emergency measures to restore investor confidence in Japan's financial system, dealers warned.

The index closed even lower Wednesday at 9,420.85.

Koizumi Wednesday reiterated a promise to prevent a financial crisis, which would include a further injection of public funds into the banking sector, should the threat arise but insisted the situation was under control.

"I do not recognize there are problems on the health of banks at the moment," he told parliament. "The entire Cabinet will work for depositor protection and stabilization of the financial system."

Banks are under pressure to reduce bad loans to levels where they can be covered by operating profits, but as fresh borrowing turns sour amid a deep recession calls are mounting for coordinated help from the government and central bank. *AFP*

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2.	ABN-AMRO Savings Bank India	1
3.	Ayala Land, Inc.	8
4.	Bank of the Philippine Islands	2
5.	CB Richard Ellis South Asia Ltd India	1
6.	Chevron USA	1
7.	Citadel Holdings	1
8.	Citibank N.A. (Phils.) - Consumer	1
9.	Citibank N.A. (Phils.) - Corporate	4
10.	Citibank India	2
11.	Dentsu Young & Rubicam Indonesia	1
12.	Eli Lilly (Philippines), Inc.	1
13.	Ernst & Young/Punongbayan and Araullo	1
14.	Gallup Org., Singapore	1
15.	GlobalStride (formerly WebserveAsia)	2
16.	Globe Telecom - GMDP	6
17.	Infosystems India	1
18.	Intel	1
19.	J & J Medical	1
20.	JG Summit	1
21.	Jollibee	1
22.	Nissan Car Lease	1
23.	Philam Life	1
24.	Phinma	1
25.	Progressive Medical Corp.	1
26.	RCBC Bank	1
27.	Rustans Commercial Group	1
28.	S & G Consulting	1
29.	Santander Bank	1
30.	Standard Chartered	7
31.	Standard Chartered India	2
32.	Transnational Diversified Group (TDG)	1
33.	UBS Warburg Singapore	1
34.	Unilever	2
	Employed but Company for confirmation	6
	Indonesia-based Companies	2
	Back to Prev. Employment	3
	Venture / FAMCOR	12
	Total No. of Employed	83

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NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the following **Provisional Receipts** have been declared lost and thereby invalidated by **MANULIFE FINANCIAL PLANS, INC.:**

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0007136 to 0007140
0008080
0009431 to 0009435
0007427 to 0007430
0002006 to 0002010
0009791 to 0009795
0010586 to 0010590

Any transaction covered by any of these receipts shall be deemed unauthorized and fraudulent and will not be honored by the company.

(PDI - Feb. 7, 2002)

URGENT NURSES

FOR IMMIGRATION TO THE USA

Requirements:
- ☑ Proof of completion of
  - BS Nursing degree
  - At least 1 year of acute hospital experience within past 2 years
- ☑ With or without certification of CGFNS and TOEFL
- ☑ Resumé (maximum 3 pages) in hardcopy or in 3.5 inch diskette. (MS Word format)
- ☑ Two (2) 2x2 pictures

Immigrant Visa sponsorship will be initiated for successful candidates.

Representatives from the U.S. will be in Manila on the week of February 10, 2002.

No local placement fee collected as this is not a placement agency.

Please submit the above-mentioned documentation on or before Saturday, **February 9, 2002**, to **Bridgewell Resources, Inc.**, G/F Lising Building, 2301 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City or fax through 817-4314, or E-mail at postmaster@bridgewell.net

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ARCONCIO TANYAG has been settled extrajudicially among his heirs as per Doc 37, Page 9, Book 1, Series of 2002 of the Notarial Register of Atty. Dolores M. Talco. (PDI-1/31, 2/7 & 14 2002)

PNOC SHIPPING & TRANSPORT CORPORATION
S & L Building, 1500 Roxas Boulevard, Manila, Philippines
P.O. Box EA 169 Ermita 1000, Manila
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PNOC The Energy Company

NOTICE OF BIDDING

FOR SALE AS SCRAP THROUGH SEALED BIDDING ON CASH "AS IS, WHERE IS," BASIS

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JOSEFA GABRIELA SILANG

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LBP	55.50 M
BREADTH	10.00 M
DEPTH	4.60 M
DRAFT	4.07 M
GROSS TONNAGE	667.00
YEAR BUILT	1978
CLASSIFICATION	NKK

Above vessel now anchored at Mabini, Batangas.

Bid form can be secured from Management Services Department c/o Mr. Raoul Trinidad 7th Floor Room 718 of the same address at Tel. Nos. 525-9289 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00.

Sealed bids should be dropped in a bid box provided at Room 718 not later than **2:00 p.m. February 22, 2002** upon which bids shall be opened in the presence of participating bidders.

A bidders deposit of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) in the form of cash, cashiers or managers check is required. Bid indicated should be inclusive of ten (10%) percent Value Added Tax (VAT).

PNOC-STC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any formality or infirmities found therein, or to accept such bids as may be advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) **JOCELYN G. ATOTUBO**
Chairperson-Disposal Committee

(PDI - Feb. 7 & 8, 2002)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Pagsasaka
PAMBANSANG PANGASIWAAN NG PAGSASAKA AT PANGINGISDA
(National Agricultural and Fishery Council)
Diliman, Lungsod ng Quezon
Tel. No. 928-8741 to 65 local 510

February 5, 2002

Tender No. 5thJNPTG-UREA - 01
MOP - 01
SBM - 01

INVITATION TO BID

The National Agricultural and Fishery Council (NAFC) hereby invites sealed bids for the sale of the following commodities under the 5th Japanese Non-Project Type Grant (JNPTG):

COMMODITY	VOLUME (MT) (+0% / -5%)	SHIPMENT ARRIVAL
UREA FERTILIZER	5,000-10,000	April 2002
MOP FERTILIZER	14,220	May 2002
SOYBEAN MEAL	18,025	June 2002

Tender documents can be secured from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Apacible Hall, Department of Agriculture, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City starting on **February 6, 2002.**

The pre-bid conference shall be held at the NAFC Maynila Conference Room on **February 8, 2002** at 7:00 a.m. for fertilizer and 9:00 a.m. for soybean meal.

Fully completed sealed bids should be submitted on **February 9, 2002** not later than 8:00 a.m. for fertilizer and 9:00 a.m. for soybean meal. Bids received after the scheduled time will not be accepted/entertained and will be returned unopened.

For details, please contact Joseph delos Santos or Peachy Agustin at Tel. Nos. 929-8234 or 928-1966.

By Authority of the NAFC Chairman-Coordinator.

(Sgd.) **RICARDO A. VILLO, JR.**
Executive Director

(PDI -- Feb. 6 & 7, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 70, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City

January 17, 2002

General Administrative Order No. 01
Series of 2001-2002

SUBJECT: INCREASE IN FEES AND CHARGES PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 197

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 197 dated January 13, 2000 of the Office of the President directing all Departments, Bureaus, Commissions, Agencies, Offices and Instrumentalities of the National Government, including Government-Owned or Controlled Corporations, to increase their rates of fees and charges by not less than 20 percent, and under and by virtue of the powers vested in the Sugar Regulatory Administration, it is hereby ordered that:

Section 1. The following Fees and Charges are hereby increased and the new rates shall be imposed and collected:

1. Registration/Renewal Fee.	
a) Sugar/Molasses Traders	P 10,000.00 per application
2. Clearance Fee	
a) Export of Sugar	P 20.00 per Metric Ton
b) Export of Molasses	P 2.00 per Metric Ton
c) Imported Refined Sugar	P 11.90 per LKG
d) Imported Raw Sugar	P 11.00 per LKG
e) Imported Molasses	P 360.00 per Metric Ton
3. Swapping/Exchange/Surcharge Fee	
a) Regular Swapping	P 1.00 per LKG
b) Advance Swapping/Replenishment	P 2.00 per LKG
c) Switching Fee	P 1.00 per LKG
4. Monitoring/Service Fee	
a) From Raw to Refined/Washed/Blanco	P 2.00 per LKG
5. Milling Permit	P 0.40 per LKG
6. Shipping Permit	P 0.40 per LKG

Section 2. All other fees and charges currently being charged and collected and not covered by this Order shall continue to be collected.

Section 3. This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication.

By the Authority of the Sugar Board:
(Sgd.) **JAMES C. LEDESMA**
Administrator

Approved:
(Sgd.) **LEONARDO Q. MONTEMAYOR**
Secretary, Department of Agriculture

(PDI - Feb 7, 2002)

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The Board of Directors, Officers and Employees of

Metro Pacific Corporation
and
Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation

condole with the family of

Soledad "Solita" Velez Pangilinan

October 6, 1921 - February 5, 2002

Mother of
Manuel V. Pangilinan, Chairman

"I am the Resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me
will live even he dies, and no one who lives and
believes in Me will ever die."
John 11:25-26

SIMEON "SAM" J. VALLARTA

Peacefully joined his Creator
on February 4, 2002 at the age of 54.

His bereaved wife **Lina**; only daughter **Grace**; his father **Julian**; brother, sisters, other relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel A-1, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on February 9, 2002 at the La Loma Cemetery after the celebration of the 12:00 noon Holy Mass.

Our Dearly Beloved "Mama"

Amalia Alvarez De Bonifacio

has peacefully joined our Lord
on February 2, 2002 at the age of 87.

Thank you very much Mama... we love you
and you'll always be in our hearts...

From your children, grandchildren
and great grandchildren.

Special Mass will be held at Pope Pius XII,
United Nations Avenue, Manila on Monday,
February 11, 2002 at 7:00 p.m.

Cremation will be on Wednesday,
February 13, 2002 at San Diego, California.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Liwayway G. Santos
Vda. De Villa-Real

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on January 26, 2002

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and message of sympathy and who in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

God Has Called Home
Our Beloved PAPA

AMADEO CASTRO VALENZUELA

(Secular Franciscan Order)

and reunited him with our Beloved MAMA
CONCHING
on February 5, 2002 at the age of 87.

His remains lie in state at Capilla de la Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City. Interment will be on Saturday, February 9, 2002 after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at the main church.

Please pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

with much gratitude from his bereaved family:

Children: **Carmen, Titos & Jun Abary, Teresing & Pete Castañeda, Boy (†) & Nelia (Galutera), Chuchi & Bobby Quevedo, Sylvia & Tito Arellano, Emma & Mark Hall, Chito & Marla (Llado), Bobby & Belle (Lu)**

Grandchildren: **Eric & Yvette, Inga & Tom, Earl & Kristy, Raymond & Debbie, Corinne & Craig, Michael & Arlene, Margie & Jack, Vicki & Caloy, Martin & Leslie, Raffy, Tricia & Martin, Didoy & Sam, Lia & Rowel, Carla, Cookie, Chucky, Addie, Ian, Olivia, Alexandra, Roxanne, Rosary, Miggy, Cesca & Gabby.**

Please omit flowers. Donations to the Franciscan Poor Clares will be greatly appreciated.

MOTORING

Cesar D. Mangawang, Editor

Motorist loses control of used, converted van

By Tessa R. Salazar

THE SECONDHAND converted van

ANGEL Asis, a 39-year-old entrepreneur from San Juan, Metro Manila, thought her guardian angel abandoned her twice.

She was driving her secondhand Nissan Largo van, which her brother Jojo won at an auction in Subic, when something went wrong.

As she turned her steering wheel to the right on the Santolan overpass, the van's tires did not.

Fortunately, she was able to slow down and stop the vehicle without a mishap. She was thankful that Edsa had an island to separate northbound vehicles from the southbound. Otherwise, a head-on collision would have been inevitable.

Angel then drove slowly to a friend's house (thankfully, the brakes were still working) in Mandaluyong where a mechanic came to inspect the van. The problem was fixed, and she thought that was that.

But then, weeks later, she again lost control, this time in a parking lot in San Juan. It was then that Angel brought it to various repair shops to try and get the van permanently fixed.

Months later, Angel still doesn't feel the least bit secure driving her van. She tells the INQUIRER that the moment she drives farther than San Juan, she would already feel nervous.

Angel seems to have had enough, and is now intent on getting to the bottom of the problem. She has asked for assistance from the Department of Trade and Industry's consultant for road vehicle safety and emissions Alex Loinaz, who is also an automotive technologist.

A closer look at the van has revealed that the spline of the steering wheel's crossjoint and the steering shaft were not proportional. Since they weren't matched, the spline gave way, causing Angel's van to lose control.

More alarming, still, were the sloppy and dangerous workmanships on the van that would have led Angel to lose more than her steering control. The hose for brake fluid, for instance, was longer than what was needed so the tube undulated in the engine compartment like a snake, with some segments higher than the reservoir. This setup would prevent the brake fluid from its proper flow from the reservoir to the wheels. Angel could have lost her brakes anytime.

The dashboard was cut and reconnected and covered with fiberglass, which Loinaz said could have caused serious slashing injuries in case of a collision. "Fiberglass shatters into sharp shards in (high-impact) frontal collisions," he said. "A broken fiberglass dashboard," he added, "has a tendency to protrude with jagged edges. Imagine (scraping your head) against a protruded broken dashboard."

The Nissan Largo, Loinaz learned, was previously a righthand drive vehicle imported by a Subic auctioneer from Japan. Angel's official receipt showed the name of the auctioneer.

This has led Loinaz to deduce that more problems related to haphazard conversions could be found in Angel's van.

True enough, the van's headlights had not been adjusted for lefthand driving. Its right headlight was not beamed high enough to see pedestrians walking on the right sidewalk, while the left headlight beam aimed too high that it blinded oncoming motorists.

Angel had complained she could not see the road signs on the right unless she set her headlights on high beam.

Another major design problem of the van, which converters seem to have found too difficult to convert, was that its sliding passenger door opened to the wrong side—on the street and not on the curb. A passenger alighting from the van could get run over by another motorist, warned Loinaz.

The side mirrors had not been adjusted, as well. According to Loinaz, the right side mirror is different from the left.

Subic auctioneer offers to rectify righthand mistakes

THE OPERATIONS manager of the auction shop in Subic where the faulty Nissan Largo owner Angel Asis' brother bought it told the INQUIRER the company promised to find out how the vehicle was able to slip out of its quality control inspection.

The operations manager also asked that the van be brought to Subic as soon as possible for repair "at no cost to the owner."

This reporter agreed to withhold the name of the auctioneer and the manager's name until after the investigation.

"We'll check our records (on) who did it," said the operations manager.

Jojo Asis, Angel's brother who bid on her behalf, also won several units for himself, as he found the vehicles affordable, said Angel. Angel said Jojo won a BMW sedan, a Mercedes-Benz, two Nissan Largos—one of which went to her—and two Kia Bestas in the auction.

Angel said Jojo seemed to be satisfied with the five other vehicles, as he didn't find any trouble while using them. He refused to be interviewed.

"We know our social responsibility. This might be an isolated case. We want to make sure to address the problem as soon as possible," said the operations manager. The manager stressed that there are now 20 other vehicle trading firms in Subic. Singling out the auctioneers for defective merchandise, he said, would not be fair.

In September 2000, the INQUIRER's motoring section came out with a documented story on haphazardly converted trucks that were involved in various accidents. The trucks were allegedly purchased in Subic.

Tessa R. Salazar

Isuzu's 3-in-1 Crosswind

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

CAN'T make up your mind whether to buy a car, a minivan or an SUV?

Isuzu Philippines Corp. offers to help you make up your mind with its three-in-one fusion, the Crosswind. Launched in June 2001, the Crosswind replaces the Hi-Lander and sheds the Asian utility vehicle (AUV) nomenclature in favor of the crossover label by claiming to combine the best characteristics of a passenger car, a minivan and a sport utility vehicle (SUV).

The Crosswind is also touted as a three-in-one techno-package since it is the first DAT (Diesel Automatic Turbo) to hit the market. The Crosswind's 2.5-liter powerplant is the first and only diesel direct injection turbocharged engine in its class mated to a 4-speed automatic transmission with overdrive feature. Its max output is 85 ps/3,900 rpm and max torque is 18.9 kg-m/2,000 rpm. These numbers translate into more than enough strength and pulling force to haul a speedboat via steep uphill roads to the beach, to cite an example. For when it comes to diesel engine technology, few would dispute Isuzu's legendary superiority.

To check out Isuzu's three-in-one claims for its crossover vehicle, I drove a Crosswind automatic XTO (P773,000) for a week:

Like a Car: "Along with its sleek, aerodynamic lines, the Crosswind is also built to hug the road and give you a maneuverable, quick-responding and very stable vehicle," Isuzu declares. I'll admit that the Crosswind's profile is sleeker than the Toyota Revo's or the Mitsubishi Adventure's and its body is about as aerodynamically designed as an AUV-priced light commercial vehicle can be with its sloping panoramic windshield, shorter hood, flush-surface multi-reflector headlamps, tapered sides, concealed rain channels, semi-concealed snap-on wipers and flush-mounted side windows and door handles minimizing wind noise at cruising speeds. But to say that the Crosswind hugs the road and maneuvers as quickly as a car is somewhat optimistic, given its bigger and taller dimensions.

Like a Minivan: Isuzu claims that the Crosswind's immense cargo and passenger-carrying space will rival most minivans. Its fully reclining second row seats allow a 70/30 ratio or a total seating capacity for 10 with the driver and two passengers in front, three in the second row (split-type fold, recline with armrest) and four seated on the two foldable jump seats in the rear. However, it's a tight squeeze for the person sitting between the driver and the front seat passenger because of the large console box housing the gear shifter in the center. Other than this, head and legroom in the front (except for the middle passenger) and second row bench seats is adequate, shoulder room for three abreast is so-so. The jump seats in the back are better suited for short people or kids.

Cargo capacity specs are not given in the Crosswind's sales brochure, so I measured the cargo floor area in the back. With the jump seats folded, it measured 42 x 42 inches. An additional 20 inches of space is provided when the backrest of the second row bench seat is folded forward. Loading and unloading cargo or getting into and out of the rear is easy because of the swing-out tailgate and the 8-inch-wide rear step board.

Like an SUV: "A rugged look and feel and a driving position that gives you a commanding view of the road offers the prestige of driving an SUV," Isuzu says. Nowadays, because of the yearly competitive upgrading of the AUV's features by the three AUV manufacturers, it's getting harder to distinguish between AUVs and SUVs from afar. While the Crosswind doesn't have the solid feel of the Trooper, Isuzu's SUV, it's true that the high driving position gives you a commanding view of the road as if you were driving an SUV.

Like an SUV or a minivan, the Crosswind XTO automatic was a breeze to drive although the engine tended to surge noisily between the second and third gears. I liked the powerful 2.5-liter turbocharged diesel engine that is capable of running a total of 300,000 to 1 million kilometers, the six-spoke alloy wheels and all-terrain 15-inch tires, the cushy ride, the strong brakes, fuel efficiency afforded by the overdrive feature, having fog lamps as standard equipment, the dual air-conditioning system, keyless entry, swing-out tailgate, luxurious pearl gray jacquard moquette upholstery and plush carpeting (even in the cargo area), the flat floor, driver's back seat pocket and excellent sound insulation. I didn't like the absence of an alarm system, CD player, rubber side moldings and cupholder in the top-of-the-line XTO A/T, the scrawny steering wheel, the tiny, hard-to-read digital clock, the small and narrow front door pockets.

So is the Crosswind really a 3-in-1 fusion on wheels? It's more like a tough light truck masquerading as a minivan. In other words, a versatile vehicle that fits the role of cargo mover, people mover or family van—whatever the situation demands.

* * *

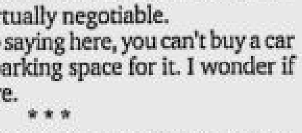
TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: There are three kinds of people: those who can count and those who can't.

* * *

E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph

Why not women as traffic enforcers?

FULL TANK



Al Mendoza

SADLY, the Land Transportation Office is being noisily criticized by motorists who couldn't get the registration of their newly bought vehicles. It's been that way for ages, I guess. Why, I have no answers. If motorists are as helpless, so do car companies/dealers.

Many verbal fights have already happened between police and motorists because of this hole in the GMA administration.

Many owners of new vehicles today now choose to just park their vehicles in the garage while awaiting the release of their certificates of registration—if only to avoid arguing with usually impertinent police officers. Thus, many vehicles bought last Christmas have remained "inactive."

Will the new leadership at the LTO (General Lastimoso) please do something about this?

* * *

Please refrain from making me a "complaints department."

Many vehicle buyers try to coax me to hit this car company or that car company because they have supposedly bought a lemon for a vehicle. Or they have received shabby treatment from their dealers.

I suggest that complaining buyers should go direct to the dealers/car companies. I cannot really be of much help. I can only do so much—like forwarding your grievance to your object of complaint, if I feel that your case is with merit. I am a writer, not a lawyer. So, get a lawyer, please?

* * *

Raising the fines of wayward drivers in the big city is no guarantee that traffic will improve. The best remedy to traffic jams is to build more flyovers and underpasses. Next, widen major thoroughfares. Then go after owners of vehicles parked in the streets, whether it is an interior street or not. I have been batting for years to implement this law: No parking on roads, especially those commonly traversed. Roads are narrow enough as to accommodate the city's huge volume of vehicles. Parked vehicles make them virtually negotiable.

In Japan, as I keep saying here, you can't buy a car if you don't have a parking space for it. I wonder if that can be done here.

* * *

It has been proposed that traffic violations will be increased from P150 to P500 for minor offenses, and from P500 to P1,000 or more for major offenses. Three apprehensions will mean automatic suspension/revocation of the driver's license.

I don't buy those.

Bigger fines would only mean bigger "grease money" for apprehending officers. Corruption will only be doubled but not the number of disciplined drivers.

I have a suggestion. Why not employ women as traffic enforcers? I am not sexist. But maybe, women as traffic enforcers might yet solve the traffic woes in the metropolis. Women, more than men, are perennially perceived as honest; usually, their values are never suspect.

Maybe Cito Lorenzo, tasked by GMA to produce one million jobs within the year, should give this idea a serious thought? Transform those metro aides into traffic enforcers and the present crop of male traffic enforcers made into metro aides?

What about our MMDA chair, Ben Abalos? Can you not give this a try?

Just askin', Sir.

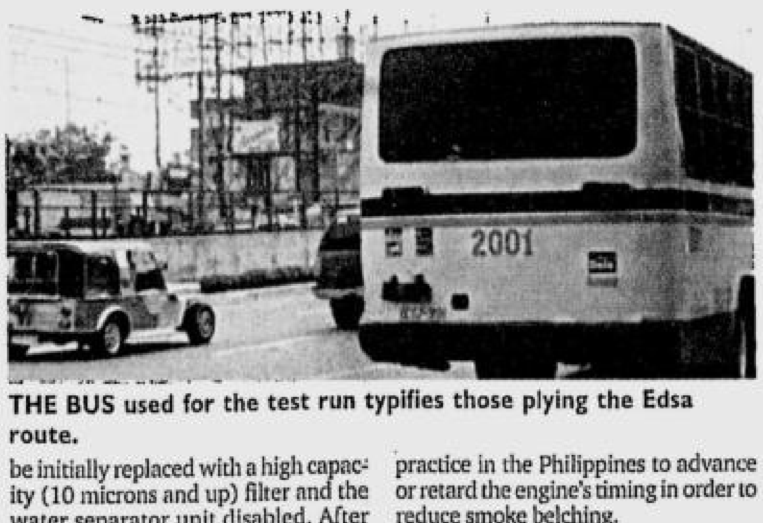
* * *

QUOTE ME. Whistle a tune, sing a song, when caught in a traffic jam. It will keep that blood from boiling.

Clean and smokeless: Is this the future of diesel fuel?

By Raymond B. Tribdino

SEVERAL bus and trucking companies have started using EcoDiesel for their own fleet.



THE BUS used for the test run typifies those plying the Edsa route.

I WAS quite skeptical as I boarded the dilapidated bus on a test run of Subic Bay Distribution Inc.'s new diesel fuel, EcoDiesel. Just days before I received a copy of the company's brochure on the new "breakthrough" fuel that blends water and diesel in a stable emulsion, which the maker claimed, reduces harmful smoke belching, particulates and ozone-depleting emissions commonly associated with diesel engines.

At the garage, with the bus still and without load, the engine proved to be smokeless as the SBDI claimed. Even with the engine revving at about 3,000 rpm, it produced none of the obnoxious black soot our public transportation is so well known for. From the exhaust pipe up to the engine bay, the normally rattling Hino powerplant seemed to run a bit quieter than usual.

The bus, provided by one of Manila's largest bus companies was about two decades old. And it showed. It was the same naturally ventilated (read, no air-conditioning), white and green buses you'd meet along Edsa daily, blocking traffic at strategic points (like Guadalupe and Crossing), engines chugging and spewing noxious black smoke as it accelerates off the bus stop.

But today, it is an environmentally conscious machine—all because of EcoDiesel.

Not a common approach

Blended fuel technology is not new, but using water-based additives into a stable emulsion is not a common approach to cutting harmful emissions. EcoDiesel is produced using expensive US-patented technology from a company called Clean Fuel Technologies Inc.

At the heart of the "diesel-phased emulsion" are diesel molecules surrounding the water-based additives. The engine will not recognize the mixture as water, therefore combustion takes place as usual after the compression stroke. What happens during combustion, when the water molecule is zapped into its basic hydrogen and oxygen is what makes EcoDiesel so effective.

EcoDiesel, according to the SBDI significantly reduces oxides such as nitrogen, carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons. It also has a "detergent effect" on the fuel system and the combustion chamber so that much of the carbon buildup left by the use of regular diesel fuel is initially cleaned. Extended use will clear up most diesel fuel lines and reduce deposits in the fuel tank as well.

Minor modifications

EcoDiesel is not a magical pour-in-the-tank elixir. Using it does not promise to revitalize an engine or solve existing major maintenance issues such as injector pump or starter problems. Nor will it bring to brand-new specifications a worn-out, ill-maintained engine.

However, the SBDI claims that regular use will create a cleaner fuel system, a cleaner burning engine and over time will extend engine life because of its cleansing properties. That promise, of course, requires that good, regular maintenance work is performed.

Vehicles that will convert to using EcoDiesel will have to first drain their tanks completely of whatever diesel fuel is left. The fuel filter should then be initially replaced with a high capacity (10 microns and up) filter and the water separator unit disabled. After several kilometers (or the equivalent of one to two full tanks of EcoDiesel) the filter needs to be replaced as the detergent action will surely clog it up.

I was shown a fuel filter that was used in the bus that has been running EcoDiesel for over 200 km and it was clearly clogged with solid deposits. A small "Y" shaped device is then installed in the fuel line. This device prevents the return of "super heated" fuel into the tank and is instead rerouted back to the fuel injector.

SBDI technicians specified that engines using their fuel blend should be in "as stock condition as possible." This means that adjustments to timing, compression ratio and injection pressure as well as fuel line bypasses should be brought back to manufacturer's original specifications. It is a common practice in the Philippines to advance or retard the engine's timing in order to reduce smoke belching.

Not available yet

EcoDiesel will not be available at the pumps yet as testing is continuing. So far buses and trucks are being used as test beds but smaller diesel-powered vehicles are also being tried out. As long as the modifications needed are made, there is no reason EcoDiesel cannot be used in any diesel-fueled vehicle.

The SBDI said EcoDiesel will be priced similar to or competitive with regular diesel once it is available at the pumps. What has not been made clear was if it would find its way to the big oil companies' gas stations or would be marketed through the new players, or exclusively at SBDI's stations. For now, several bus and trucking companies have started using EcoDiesel for their own fleet and it is expected that because of the lower maintenance costs (as well as the reduced costs of paying for smoke-belching violations) more transport companies will follow.

The SBDI also assured there will be no decreases in the performance (meaning horsepower and torque) of the engine. The only significant change is that it will run cleaner.

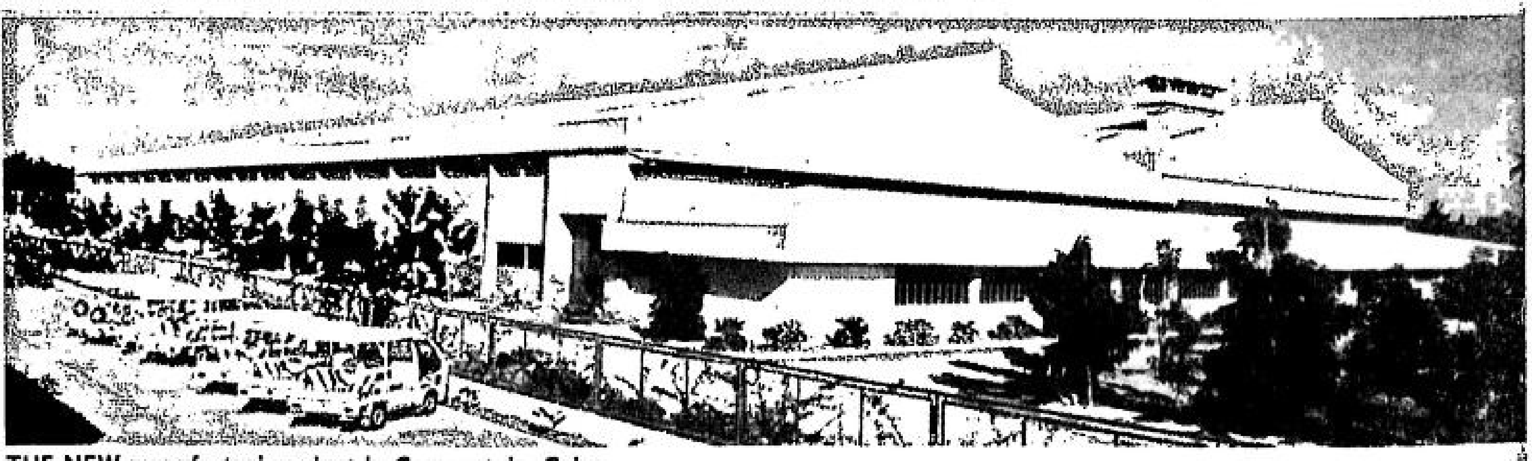
Approved for use

During the test run, representatives from the antismoke-belching unit of the Metro Manila Development Authority were present to check on SBDI's claims of reduced emissions. Compared with its performance prior to the use of EcoDiesel, which it failed miserably, the bus now passed all tests and was given a "clean bill of health."

The bus companies' engine technicians also inspected the bus after the test run and discovered many changes in overall performance. The most obvious was the clogged fuel filter, which was promptly replaced. Apparently it is common practice to provide lesser engine maintenance to nonair-conditioned buses because of lesser load stresses. This particular bus seemed to be headed to the junkyard, which made it even more amazing to see it perform as well as it did.

Is EcoDiesel the way to go for diesel fuel in the future? The SBDI gave a confident yes. Diesel-fueled vehicles have gained a lot of acceptance in the past years because of increased performance and better driveability. Now here is the fuel to match.

YAMAHA STX



THE NEW manufacturing plant in Compostela, Cebu.

Norkis introduces 2 new bike models

By Charles E. Buban

WITH THE BLESSING of its new 10-hectare manufacturing plant and the launch of its two new motorcycle models, Norkis Group has clearly positioned itself in recapturing market leadership in the motorcycle business this year.

Before hundreds gathered during the recent blessing of the Canamucan complex in Compostela, Cebu, Norkis Group founder and chair Norberto Quisumbing Jr. announced his company's unveiling of two Yamaha motorcycles now fitted with fuel-efficient four-stroke engines marks the company's strong move in the motorcycle market now dominated by two other Japanese brands.

Said Quisumbing: "With these two new models we are giving the market two very practical motorcycles. They give you more mileage per liter, which is a big consideration now that gas prices don't come cheap. With fuel-efficient engines you also contribute less to air pollution."

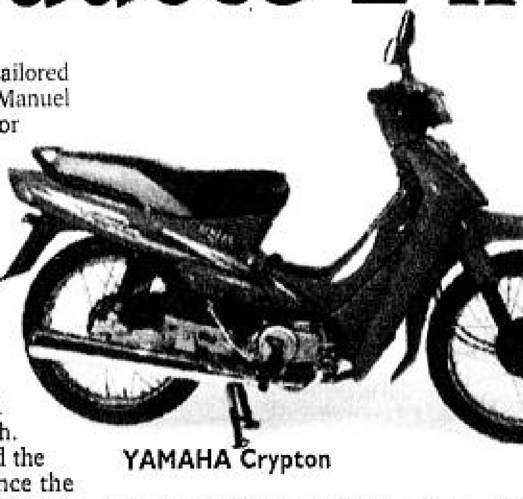
Dependable workhorse

The Yamaha STX is the ideal utility motorcycle. Designed with the tricycle in mind, the STX is what you're looking for in a heavy-duty, all-weather utility tricycle. The STX is considered as the most fuel-efficient—20 percent better than the leading competitor. Its dependable fuel tank can hold up to 11 liters so it can take you farther between fill-ups.

Powered by an air-cooled four-stroke 123-cc single overhead camshaft, the STX carries enough pulling power and strength to carry load comfortably. The STX has a built-in balancer for smoother and steady ride on asphalt and dirt roads.

"This model is specifically tailored for Philippine situation," said Manuel Gaspar Albos Jr., Norkis SVP for marketing. "This highly modified model has no comparison elsewhere and its main advantage is its toughness and power, excellent for tricycle use," he added.

The STX has superb steering handling, thanks to a push-cancel type turn indicator and handle with locked combined main switch. The rider also wouldn't mind the bumps and uneven road since the STX is also fitted with a double seat made of flat and thick comfortable cushion.



YAMAHA Crypton

Comfortable ride

The Yamaha Crypton is not just your typical underbone motorcycle. Its fuel-efficient engine is ideal for long-city drive since a liter of gasoline can reach 62 km and up to 72 km on the highway. It is powered also by an air-cooled 4-stroke engine with a balancer that reduces vibration for smoother ride.

The Crypton carries new innovations including optimized cam profile, carburetor, jetting and ignition timing and minimized drivetrain power loss. The STX front wheel is also equipped with a disc brake to ensure optimal braking power.

"The Crypton is what you'll need to take you from one place to another. It's stylish, sporty and it won't stall you in traffic," assured Albos.

'Invented' motorcycle

People still haven't realized that Norkis has been revolutionizing the industry since its founding in January 1962. The first batch of Yamaha YGI-80 caught the fancy of Filipinos when Quisumbing conceived of attaching the motorcycle to manually driven pedicabs and the first tricycle was born. Today, there are over 2 million tricycle units plying our roads.

When the economy fell into crisis in the early '80s, Norkis once more exhibited its ingenuity when it invented the first Econobike, a reengi-neered motorcycle using Yamaha components but sold at a much lower price. Through the Econobike, Norkis has saved foreign exchange, employed more workers and made the Yamaha accessible to thousands of cash-strapped Filipinos.

In 1990, Quisumbing once again saw the need to come up with an affordable vehicle that would one day replace the jeepneys and tricycles. He came up with the Multicab, a newly styled passenger or personal vehicle on four wheels using Suzuki and Daihatsu engines with 550-cc and 660-cc displacement.

Today, the Norkis Group continues to think up ways to further improve the local transportation industry through its four flagship groups: Holdings, Summa, Eagle and Chrysler. Chrysler became the latest member of the family when it joined Norkis two years ago to distribute Dodge Dakota, Dodge Durango, Chrysler Town & Country, Chrysler Grand Voyager and Jeep Grand Cherokee brands.

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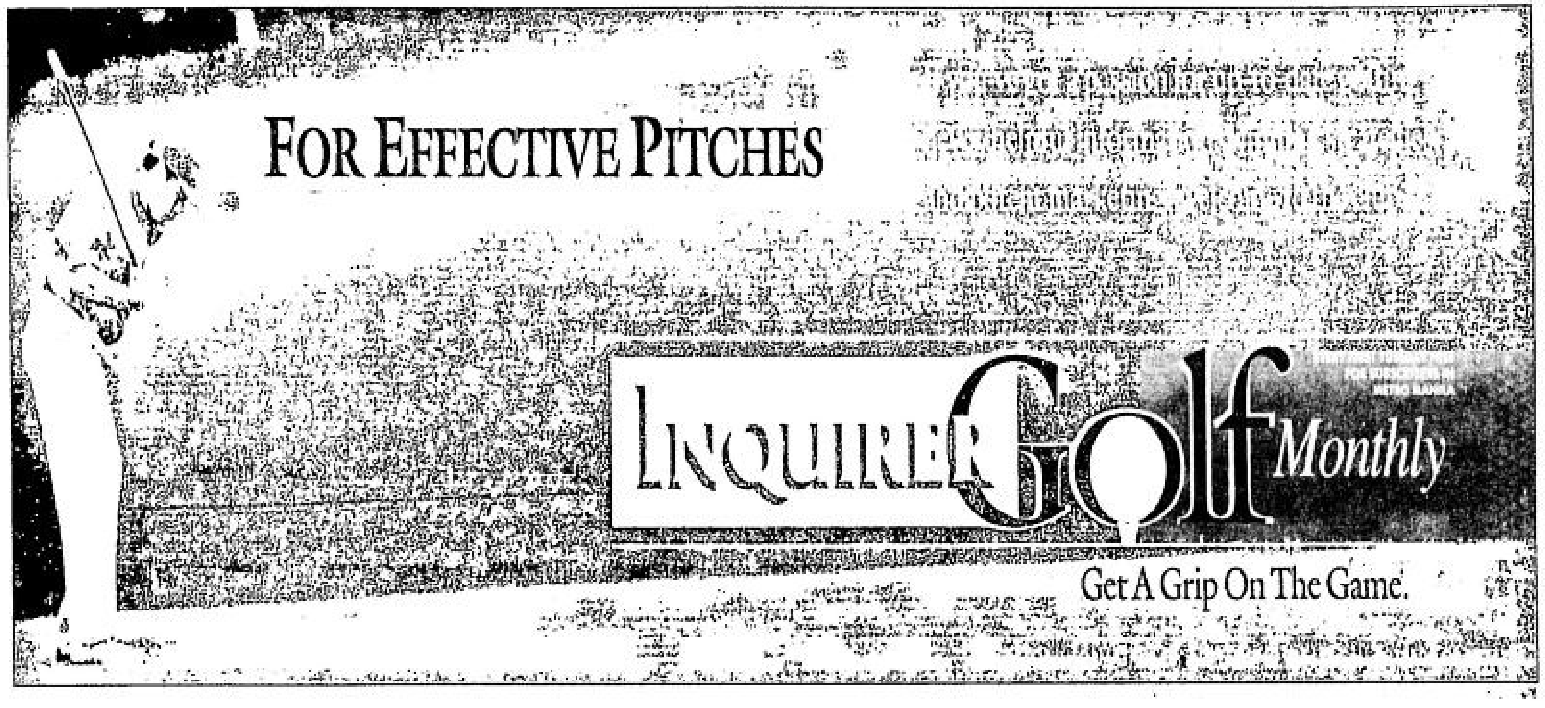

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Soledad "Solita" Velez Pangilinan

October 6, 1921 - February 5, 2002

Who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on February 5, 2002 at the age of 80.

Her bereaved children **Rene (Chiqui)**, deceased, **Manuel (Manny)** and **Ma. Teresa (Tess)**; son-in-law **Oscar (Oggie) delos Reyes**; and daughter-in-law **Milagros (Milette) Pangilinan**; grandchildren **Mitzi Therese**, **Andrew** and **Patricia Mae**; **Katherine Soledad**, **Anna Teresa**, and **John Michael**; great grandchildren **Mikaela**, **Danielle**, **Talisa**, **Ian** and **Keno**; sister **Josefina Nocete**; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends, request the pious reader to pray for the eternal and peaceful repose of her soul.

Interment will be today, February 7, 2002, 12 noon at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

AMANDO GARCIA REYES, SR.

Joined his Creator on February 4, 2002 at the age of 71.

His bereaved wife **Mely** and children **Meluchi**, **Dodo**, **Albert**, **Jojo**, **Allan**, **Andy**, and **Noli** would like to announce that his remains will be interred at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City on Friday, February 8, 2002 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Santuario de San Jose Church, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City.

HERMAN "GERRY" VILLADOR SEECHUNG

of Naga City

peacefully joined his Maker on February 4, 2002 at the age of 62.

His beloved wife **Daisy Ocampo - Seechung**; children **Benito II** and **Jane**, **Nancy** and **Jonathan Lim**, **Marita** and **Manuel Dy**, **Rosario**, **Herman II**, **Carina** and **Geraldine**; grandchildren **Jacky** and **Iza**, **Kyla**, **Nikka**, **Isabel** and **Camille**, **Nissa**, **Niggy** and **Nathan**; other relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Mt. Carmel Hall, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Doña Juana Rodriguez Avenue, New Manila, Quezon City.

Cremation will follow after the 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass and service on Friday, February 8, 2002.

"We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God." (2 Corinthians 4:14)

Legion of Mary

Senatus of Northern Philippines

Mourns with deep sorrow the passing away of its Vice-President

BRO. RAMON R. LOPEZ

June 11, 1952 - February 5, 2002

His remains lie in state at 162 Baco Street near corner Calamba Street, La Loma, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, February 9, 2002 after the 9:00 AM Holy Mass.

All members of the Legion of Mary, friends, relatives and pious readers are requested to offer Masses and prayers for the peace and eternal repose of his soul.

AVELINO C. FAJARDO

Of Tarlac City

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on February 5, 2002 at the age of 96.

His wife **Teodorica (†)**; children **Adela** and **Oscar (†) Villagomez**, **Ladislao**, **Vicentita** and **Alfredo Fragante**, **Bibiano** and **Merle**; nephews, nieces, grandchildren, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Mt. Carmel Church, Quezon City.

Interment will be on February 9 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

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Chinese new year at the SM Malls

SM SUPERMALLS celebrates Chinese new year with fun-filled activities and lucky surprises to welcome the year of the horse on Feb. 12.

Be amazed by the Wushu exhibition as performers leave the audience breathless with their gravity-defying yet artistic skills. Wushu, an ancient Chinese sport, is considered the most valuable in its cultural heritage. Watch the Philippine Ling Nam and Pao Hong Wushu Society thrill the crowd at the SM Centerpoint and SM Southmall on Feb. 8; SM City North Edsa and SM Supercenter Sucat on Feb. 9; SM Megamall on Feb. 10; and at SM City Pampanga on Feb. 12. All shows begin at 4 p.m.

Add spice to your Chinese new year feast with recipes from Chinese cooking demos. Learn how to cook up sumptuous yet easy-to-prepare Chinese specialties like stir-fried Hoisin Beef, chicken and lychee in Oyster Sauce, Yang Chow rice, or Peking Noodles from Lee Kum Kee and the chefs from the Center for Culinary Arts.

Get a taste of China at SM City Manila on Feb. 8; SM Megamall on Feb. 9; SM City-North Edsa on Feb. 10; and SM Southmall on Feb. 12. All shows start at 2 p.m. Pampangueños can likewise add a taste of the Orient to their delicious homegrown cuisine in a cooking demo on Feb. 10 at 2 p.m.

Capping the celebration is the spectacular Lion and Dragon Dance Festival, a festive tradition that is believed to bring fortune, happiness, and prosperity.

The Philippine Green Dragon Training Center, New Lion, and the Philippine Lion and Dragon Dance Association make a stop at the SM Malls to bring good luck and cheer. These include SM City Manila, SM Supercenter Sucat, and Sm City Pampanga on Feb. 8; SM City Bacoor and SM City Fairview on Feb. 9; SM Southmall and SM Centerpoint on Feb. 10; SM Megamall and SM City North-Edsa on Feb. 12. The festivities begin 11 p.m.

Shoppers get lucky as participating tenants at the SM Malls will give out ang pao envelopes filled with treats and surprises for a minimum purchase.

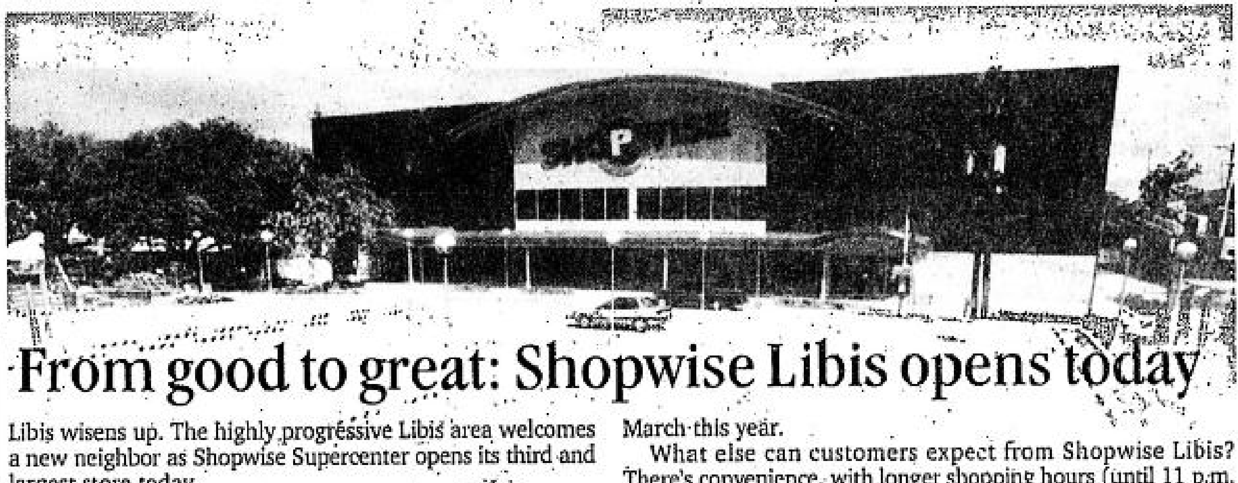
FENG SHUI FOR MANDARIN, MOTOROLA

Master Joseph Chau Kam Shing shares his expertise in feng shui with Motorola marketing manager for consumer solutions group-South Asia Ellen Suarez (left) and Charisse Chuidian, Mandarin Oriental PR director in time for the Mandarin Hotel's Chinese New Year celebration with Motorola as major partner.

New activities slated at Rizal Park

A SERIES of meaningful activities and workshops are being formulated by the National Parks Development Committee (NPDC) to highlight the importance of Rizal Park not only as a historical place to go to but also for being more of a socio-cultural recreational place where people can interact. A new set of activities are scheduled for February, among those are painting sessions at Rizal Park's "Kanlungan ng Sining" for aspiring painters under the supervision of artist E.R. Tagle.

According to the executive director of NPDC, this new series of crafted programs and workshops will help the youth get away from the "mall culture" with the enriching experiences it will offer. Rizal Park, he added, can serve as a venue not only for political or religious gatherings but also for meaningful livelihood programs to meet the realities of the changing times. For further details call Roel V. Supendio at 302-7182.



From good to great: Shopwise Libis opens today

Libis wisens up. The highly progressive Libis area welcomes a new neighbor as Shopwise Supercenter opens its third and largest store today.

Three years ago, the introduction of Shopwise began a wave of retail developments that added variety, shopping excitement, and more value for the Filipino consumer. The newcomer from the Rustan Group of Companies pioneered Supercenter shopping where customers could buy affordable fresh goods, groceries, clothes, toys, and things for the home—all under one roof. A second store followed in Makati two years later, and now Shopwise soars higher as it unveils its most exciting store yet.

This shoppers' haven measures over 18,000 sqm. and features all the amenities that Shopwise has come to be known for, such as attractive pieces, a wide variety of quality merchandise, fresh goods at wet market prices, more customer space, a clean and modern environment, and much more.

Aside from the Supercenter, Shopwise Libis also houses mall shops and a fresh new concept in food court operations called the Boulevard. The Boulevard is expected to open in March this year.

What else can customers expect from Shopwise Libis? There's convenience, with longer shopping hours (until 11 p.m. daily), fast, one-stop check out with over 35 cash registers. Ample parking slots (over 360), and one-stop-shopping (a supermarket, wet market, and department store in one.)

Shopwise is affordable, and so is the quality. No membership is required. There are exclusive rebates and discounts for Wise Club members, and the promotions and specials are frequent.

Then, there is variety. There are over 60,000 items to choose from storewide, with a mix of local and imported merchandise that would fit all budgets for all members of the family. Plus, the fresh goods are sold at wet market prices, with stringent quality control measures.

To launch this flagship store, Shopwise has lined up an exciting day of festivities which starts at 11 a.m. with the unveiling of the store façade. Special guests for the day include Kris Aquino and divas Geneva Cruz, Jinky Llamanzares and Jenine Desiderio. The day's festivities will be capped off in the evening with a fireworks show and a free open-air concert with Barbie's Cradle and Brownbeat All Stars.

SHOWN (from left) are Maritess Tantoco, Violet Vargas, Marilou Pineda and Ising Enriquez

SISTERS Crickette Tantoco and Frances Yu of Shopwise

FROM RIGHT are Mark Kiehl, Mark Segal, Ambassador Bienvenido R. Tantoco Sr., Susing Pineda, Antonio Floriendo and Bienvenido R. Tantoco Jr.

FROM left, Robert Sun, Rina Reyes, and Ernie Mascenon of Nestle with Maritess and Donnie Tantoco

THE TANTOCO children, left, with Crickette and Maritess Tantoco, Monina Lacson, Maja Olivares Co, Malu Gamrova, and Sandy Prieto-Romualdez

GMA, CHED commend AMA

AMA Computer University (Amacu) newly installed first president Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V (third from right) was commended by CHED. Among the distinguished guests who witnessed the investiture of Aguiluz were (from left) Education Secretary Raul Roco, Cielo C. Aguiluz, Amable C. Aguiluz IX, Vice President Teofisto Guingona, and Senate President Franklin Drilon.

THE COMMISSION on Higher Education formally confirmed the university hood of AMA Computer University (Amacu) to elevate the status of the reigning pillar of computer education in the Philippines during the investiture of its first university president held Tuesday night, Feb. 5, at the Philippine International Convention Center in Manila.

CHED chair Dr. Ester Garcia read the university confirmation and led the investiture and administration oath of Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V as first university president of Amacu before Vice President and Foreign Affairs Secretary Teofisto Guingona, Senate President Franklin Drilon, House Speaker Jose de Venecia, Education Secretary Raul Roco, and other distinguished guests.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, meanwhile, conveyed her recognition to Asia's first and largest IT university and Aguiluz for his unwavering dedication in uplifting IT literacy among Filipinos.

"As we face the challenges of the new economy, I am certain that we can count on AMA Computer University and with Aguiluz in raising the quality of education in the country, particularly computer education, and in widening our country's reservoir of effective leaders and nation-builders," Arroyo said.

Aguiluz has vowed to support the Arroyo administration in shaping the future of information and communication technology (ICT) in the Philippines through quality education.

On his investiture address, Dr. Aguiluz said, "We may have limited resources to acquire the most expensive and the latest computer hardware, but we have limitless intellectual capacities to take the lead and change the world."

In partnership with Microsoft, Amacu also vowed to produce 10,000 Microsoft certified professionals this school year as they broaden their market reach with the establishment of an "e-learning hub" in the Middle East.

With the support of Prime Minister Shaik Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, this Bahrain-based "e-learning hub" will cater to more than 1.5 million overseas Filipino workers in the Arab region, thus making continuous IT education a possibility for OFWs in a foreign land.

In pursuit of his noble aspirations, Aguiluz unveiled the establishment of the AMA Computer University Town, known as the first university IT park with broadband technology in a 50-hectare property in General Trias, Cavite.

As a university that meets global standards, AMA keeps pace with developments abroad by establishing partnerships with industry leaders such as Cisco Systems, SmartForce, Avaya Communications, National Computing Center of the United Kingdom (NCC-UK), and the University of California-Berkeley.

Amacu is the first to offer the bachelor degree in computer science, and the first university to become ISO 9001 certified. Amacu is also the first IT school to be granted the Pacucoa second level accreditation and has pioneered in offering new degree courses in Mechatronics Engineering, Engineering Informatics, Manufacturing Engineering, and Logistics Engineering and Management.

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APEC, OVTA OPT FOR DAIKIN-ALEN

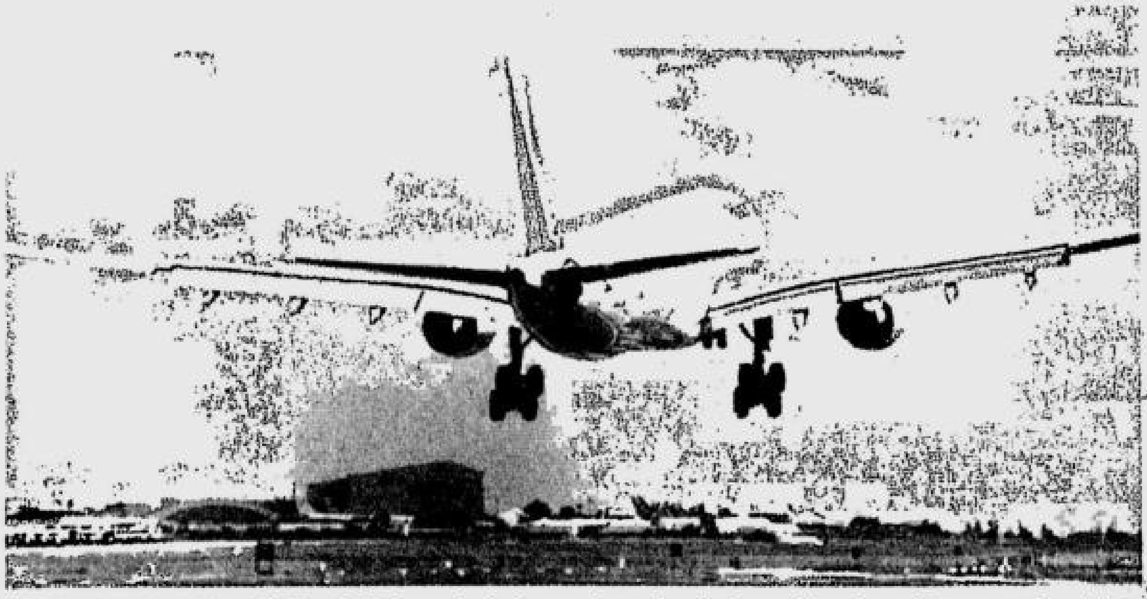
For the second straight year, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) and the Overseas Vocational Training Association (Ovta) commissioned Daikin-Alen Air Conditioning, Inc to conduct its just-concluded annual technical seminar for aircon technicians. Called the Apec Vocational Training Project in Cooperation with Enterprises, the free technical training was held at the Daikin-Alen Malinta Plant early December. This has been part of the 'Osaka Action Plans' (OAP) which were adopted at the Apec Conference held in Osaka, Japan in November 1995. Shown above are the Apec, Ovta and Daikin-Alen key officers with seminar participants during the opening ceremonies of the five-day technical seminar. Shown inset is Eiji Ando, Ovta's planning and information department general manager, encouraging seminar from all over the Philippines.

CORINTHIAN-CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY ALLIANCE

Corinthian School and the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom have formed an alliance, making the latter a Cambridge International Center for its Ucles (University of Cambridge Local Examination System) program on skills development and training in business, information and communication technology. The alliance was recently formalized between Dr. Paul Beedle, Cambridge professional development program manager and Corinthian School president Zacarias Quintin at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. Shown are (from left) Steve Parker, university representative for Northeast Asia; Tan Kian Hock, representative for East Asia; Beedle; Quintin; Corinthian EVP Paz Azicate-Quintin, and dean Yolanda P. Franco, Corinthian academic director.

Gov't set to hold air talks with 11 countries

By Abigail L. Ho



A PAL aircraft taking off. The CAB has asked the carrier to justify its petition for a 10-percent fare hike.

THE PHILIPPINES is set to hold air talks with 11 countries, including its top markets for overseas Filipino workers, in the first half of the year.

Air Transportation Office chief Adelberto Yap told reporters yesterday that the Philippine air panel would meet with its counterparts from the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Yemen next month. These Middle East countries have requested the Philippines to negotiate with them to allow their flag carriers to fly here.

Yap said it would be advantageous to hold air talks and exchange flight entitlements with these countries, as the Philippines had thousands of OFWs there.

At present, pioneer flag carrier Philippine Airlines Inc. only services two Middle East countries—the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi. PAL flies twice weekly to Abu Dhabi and thrice weekly to Riyadh in Saudi Arabia. No Philippine carrier flies to any other country in the Middle East, although PAL has an existing code sharing agreement with Emirates Airline for flights to and from Dubai six times a week. In a code sharing agreement, a passenger may buy a ticket from a local carrier but will be flown to his destination by another carrier.

Foreign carriers flying from the Philippines to the Middle East include Gulf Air, which flies twice weekly, and Saudi Arabian Airlines, which flies every day.

Yap said the country would also hold air talks with Thailand as many Filipino businessmen were going to that country for business.

On the local front, meanwhile, the Civil Aeronautics Board has asked local airlines to explain their need for a 10-percent hike in domestic airfare.

Yap, concurrently vice chair of the CAB, said the board asked PAL and Air Philippines to submit a written explanation of how they arrived at the 10-percent figure on March 6. "We asked the airlines to explain how they came up with that. Why 10 percent? Why not 6 percent or 4 percent?" he said.

Right now, only these two flag carriers have pending applications for fare increases.

Late last year, the CAB approved a flat increase in international and domestic airfares in view of the rise in global insurance covers brought about by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States. They were all given the go-signal to increase their fares by P300 for domestic and $6 for international.

Cebu Pacific Air's petition for 10-percent fare hike has been approved.

Firm to phase out tobacco trading unit, lay off 348

By Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE Tobacco Flue-Curing & Redrying Corp. (TFC) has announced a plan to phase out its tobacco trading operations and terminate the services of 348 employees this year.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, FTC did not say whether it planned to migrate to another line of business. However, it said it would maintain the processing of burley tobacco from Mindanao Burley Corp.

Under its new strategy, FTC will no longer buy tobacco produce for its own account but instead focus its operations on processing the tobacco requirements of clients like Mindanao Burley through a tolling arrangement.

In order to phase out the tobacco trading operations, the disclosure said TFC would have to lay off 348 employees, of which 320 are seasonal workers while 28 are regular employees.

The company said it has earmarked about P9 million for the cost of separation of employees under its streamlining program.

TFC, which is controlled by the family of former Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Bienvenido Tan Jr., is one of the five companies in the Philippines that buy and pack tobacco and one of the three that export tobacco.

Company officials are not available for comment as of press time.

Incorporated in 1951 and listed in 1955, FTC's clients are major cigarette manufacturers in the Philippines and in western Europe. These clients inform TFC of their tobacco requirements before the tobacco season and TFC makes arrangements with farmers to meet its clients' needs.

TFC sources raw flue-cured Virginia tobacco from northern Philippines or the Ilocos region from 20 suppliers and several individual farmers. It then sorts the tobacco into different grades based on its clients' specific blends and then processes and packs the tobacco into cartons.

The company's tobacco operations have been modestly profitable as of its last fiscal year ending August but have stood on a relatively small revenue base.

In 2001, it chalked up a net profit of P5.85 million on revenues of P31.81 million.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2002 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER C1

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LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

BEEF *ho-fan*

A whiff of Chinatown in steel Makati

By Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Val Handumon

OFFICE workers and condo dwellers can now savor the sights, scents and flavors of authentic Chinatown-style dining right in the heart of Makati's restaurant row.

Although the place is clean and well lit, Hua Lan—at the corner of Jupiter and Reposo Streets—is free of such elements as fancy furniture pieces, mood lighting and engaging curio and art objects so common nowadays among Makati restaurants. Rather, it prides itself in providing diners with a "no-frills" dining experience that centers on real Cantonese food at Binondo prices.

Hua Lan is no hole-in-the-wall, either. Unlike the series of restaurants along the row, however, it's the first of its kind to open on the opposite side (right side if you're driving towards Makati Avenue) of Jupiter, on the ground floor of ITC Building.

"What we lack in ambience," says owner Tomas Tangsoc, "we more than make up for with fast service, affordable prices and, of course, great-tasting dishes."

Short orders

Hua Lan's disposable menu, which also doubles as a place mat, features short orders—from noodles, dimsum, congee, to rice toppings—and à la carte items. Several roasted delicacies and fresh ingredients are imported from China through Binondo-based suppliers.

Steaming bowls of *mami* cost P70 a pop. Diners can choose from beef, wanton and chicken to more exotic soup varieties combined with dumplings, roast duck, fish ball, *asado* or *pata*. The restaurant also serves noodles aplenty—from savory *bihon* to juicy *lomi*—for *merienda*.

If you have a long day ahead, Hua Lan offers hefty servings of all-in-one rice toppings at P85-P120 a pop. Best-selling rice toppings such as roast duck, suckling pig and the re-

A WHIFF/ p.C4

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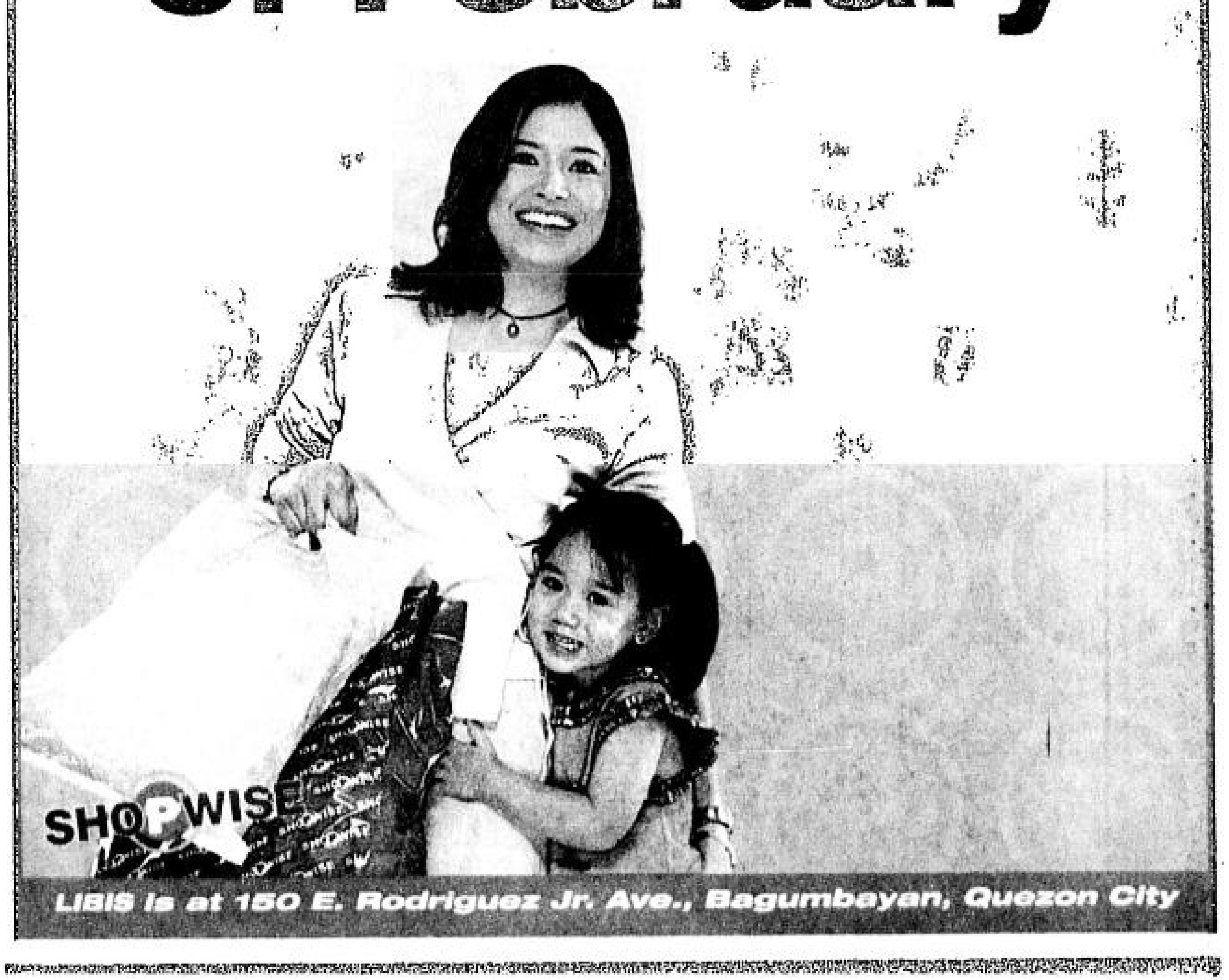
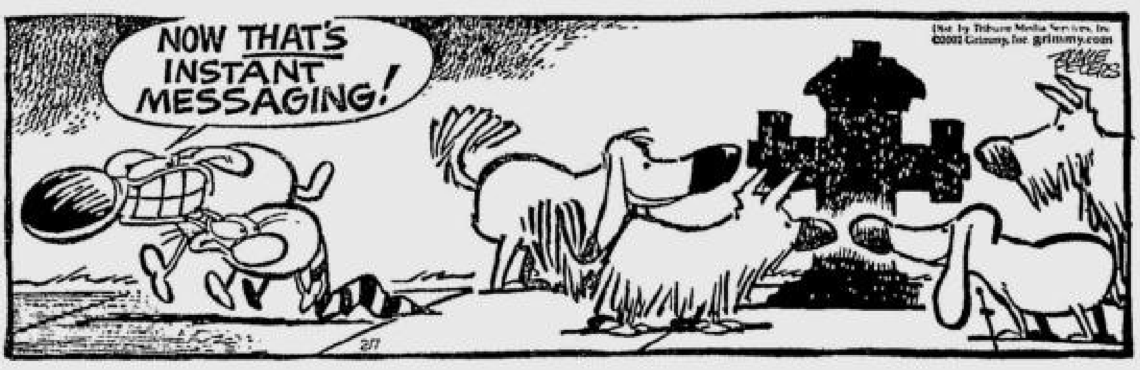
Libis wisens up on the 7th of February



LIBIS is at 150 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Bagumbayan, Quezon City

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS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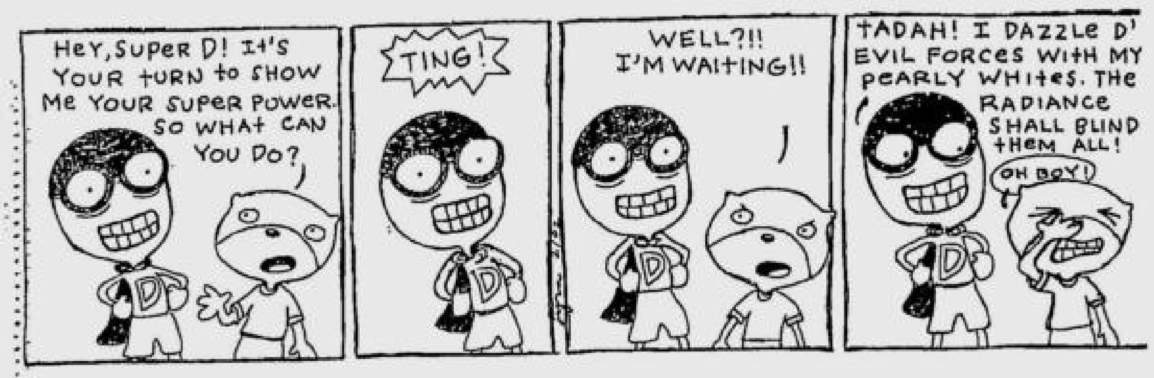
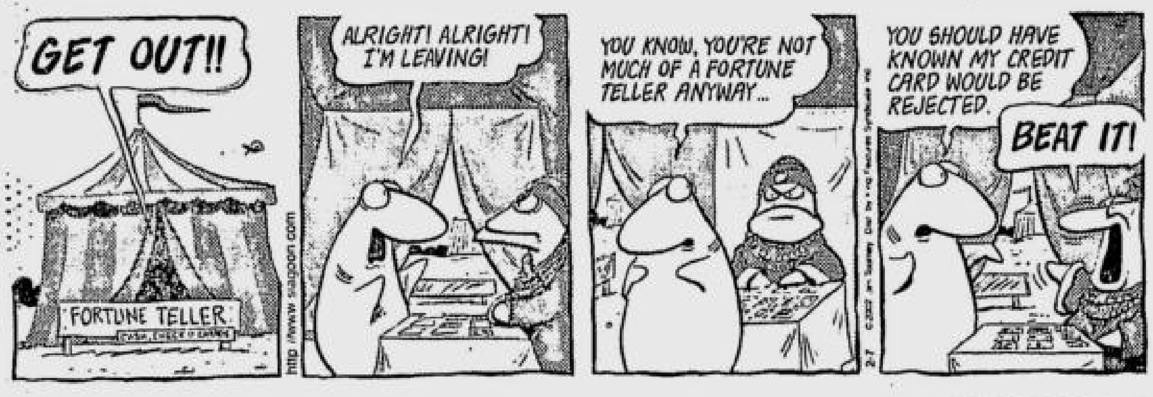
BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HEY, SUPER D! IT'S YOUR TURN TO SHOW ME YOUR SUPER POWER. SO WHAT CAN YOU DO?
TING!
WELL?!! I'M WAITING!!
TADAH! I DAZZLE D' EVIL FORCES WITH MY PEARLY WHITES. THE RADIANCE SHALL BLIND THEM ALL!
OH BOY!

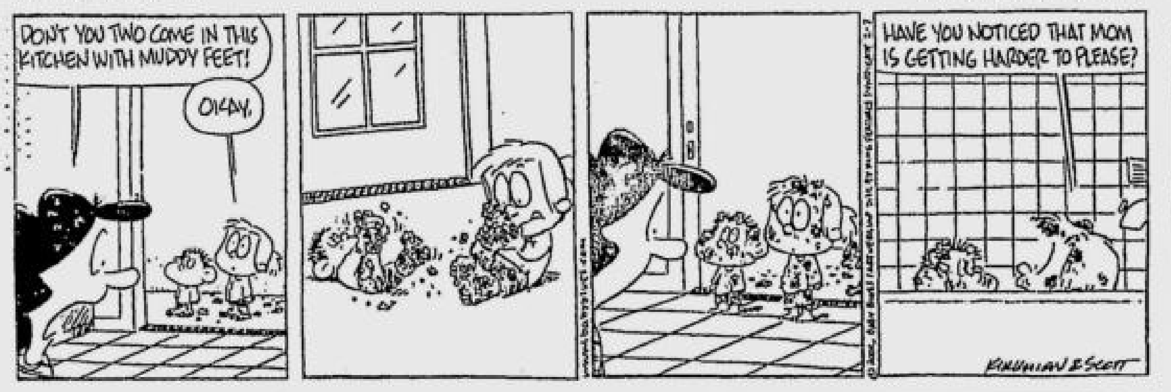
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


GET OUT!!
FORTUNE TELLER
ALRIGHT! ALRIGHT! I'M LEAVING!
YOU KNOW, YOU'RE NOT MUCH OF A FORTUNE TELLER ANYWAY...
YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN MY CREDIT CARD WOULD BE REJECTED.
BEAT IT!
http://www.slagoon.com
2-7

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


DON'T YOU TWO COME IN THIS KITCHEN WITH MUDDY FEET!
OKAY.
HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT MOM IS GETTING HARDER TO PLEASE?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Garth Brooks, Miguel Ferrer, Charles Dickens, Chris Rock

Happy Birthday: You have an interest in money, investments, property and the personal affairs of others this year. You will take pride in your home and do whatever is necessary to raise its value. Don't shy away from doing the work yourself at this time. You'll instinctively know what will work and what won't this year. Your numbers are 16, 23, 25, 33, 38, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your ability to absorb everything that is going on around you will contribute to the decisions you make. Share your findings with others.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put your time and effort into maintaining and fixing up your home. Money spent on property and domestic products will be well worth your while.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will be emotional about your relationship. If someone you care about is being difficult, give him or her space today. Make plans to do something interesting with a close friend.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take time out to do something nice for someone you work with who is going through tough times. Your kindness will be repaid .

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Get out and do things that will be uplifting today. Your friends will praise your insightful opinions. Creative projects will help you feel good about yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Someone at home is likely to drive you crazy today. Try to be patient and tolerant but don't put up with abuse. Do your own chores and leave the rest.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You will want to travel today. The more you get to see and experience the better. Close friends will add to your fun. Look out for something special in the mail.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will get sound financial advice if you ask someone with experience about investments and moneymaking opportunities. Don't lend money or possessions to friends.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you are in a partnership, expect to have some disagreements today. Take time to consider what is important to you in a partner. You are better off by yourself than with someone who doesn't complement you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't push your luck with authority figures. Keep a low profile and refrain from getting into debates with co-workers. You may find yourself losing ground if you try to change.

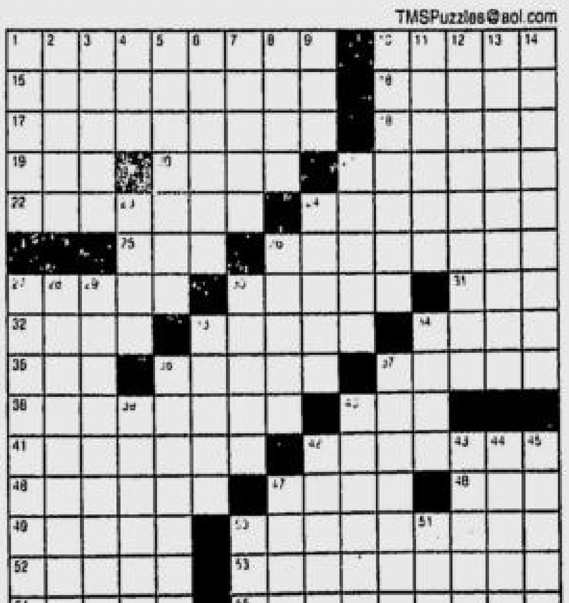
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your contribution to a worthwhile cause will enhance your reputation and introduce you to prominent individuals. You have a lot to offer and if you let your imagination take over you'll even surprise yourself today.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Someone you thought you could trust is probably talking behind your back. Older relatives may be a burden today. Do what you can to help but not at the expense of neglecting your own responsibilities.

Birthday Baby: You can be impulsive, independent, sensitive and inventive. You are forever jumping from one thing to another. You have a unique approach to life that will always have an element of surprise.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Bill Swain
New Port Richey, FL

12/22/01

ACROSS
1 Broadcasts to viewers
10 Asimov of science fiction
15 Basic
16 Marine ray
17 Brain gland
18 Green strokes
19 Words at the altar
20 Stool supporters
21 Pounds and dollars
22 Main part of a tooth
24 American philosopher Langer
25 Put a stop to
26 Wins by a narrow margin
27 Scrawny person
30 Double agents
31 Dyeing vessel
32 Amphitheater row
33 Fills to capacity
34 Fountain of Dixieland
35 Time to remember
36 Overcast and blue, e.g.
37 Post-Christmas events
38 Praises
40 __ Diego
41 Genetic deviants
42 Find new workers
46 African antelopes
47 Shades
48 Speller's test
49 Tango or twist
50 Touchy
52 Absolute
53 Feigned
54 Nuisances
55 Classifiers

DOWN
1 Lukewarm
2 Slur over
3 Give the game away
4 Big bird Down Under
5 Sheer material
6 Mean
7 Enact
8 Glasses supporters
9 Crafty
10 Dictates
11 Finnish baths
12 Nontraditional fiction
13 Make slender
14 Tape holders
21 Ponders
23 Rend
24 Cobbler's concerns
26 Music units
27 Fogged, like a windshield
28 Mingle
29 Affected chemical substances
30 Disfigures
33 Short comic performances
34 Breathe hard
36 Actor George
37 More inclined to be disrespectful
39 Tall, narrow window
40 Handles
42 Ancient alphabet characters
43 Put up with
44 Hot head?
45 Supplies with nourishment
47 That girl's
50 Rejuvenation retreat
51 Big bang letters?

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

S	W	A	P	■	M	A	T	S	■	B	A	R	E	R
H	A	I	L	■	A	G	U	E	■	L	L	A	M	A
A	C	N	E	■	S	E	R	E	■	I	O	N	I	C
D	O	U	B	L	E	I	N	D	E	M	N	I	T	Y
■	■	■	E	A	R	S	■	T	A	P	E	■	■	■
H	U	M	■	S	U	M	M	I	T	S	■	S	P	A
E	L	U	D	E	■	■	E	M	U	■	F	L	U	B
I	N	S	U	R	A	N	C	E	P	O	L	I	C	Y
R	A	I	D	■	R	O	C	■	■	B	U	C	K	S
S	E	C	■	F	I	N	A	G	L	E	■	E	S	S
■	■	■	S	A	S	S	■	R	A	S	P	■	■	■
B	L	A	N	K	E	T	C	O	V	E	R	A	G	E
A	I	M	E	E	■	I	O	T	A	■	O	R	A	L
S	M	E	A	R	■	C	L	O	G	■	P	I	L	L
H	O	N	K	S	■	K	A	N	E	■	S	A	L	E

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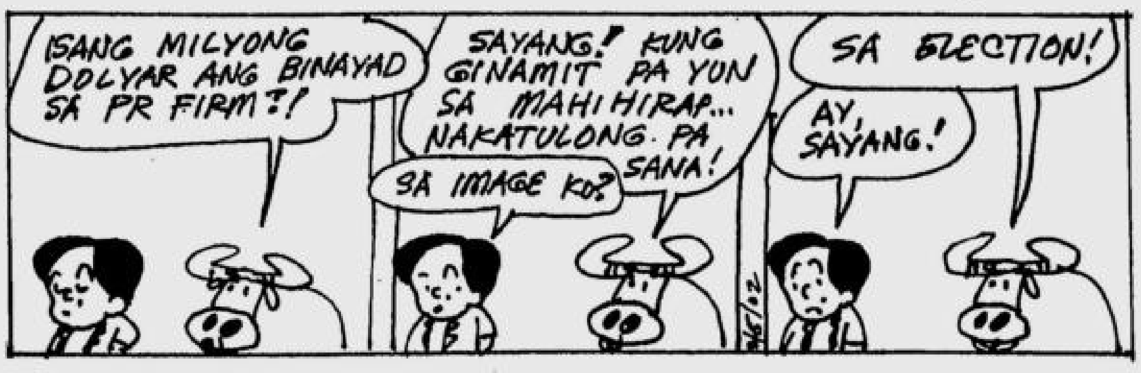
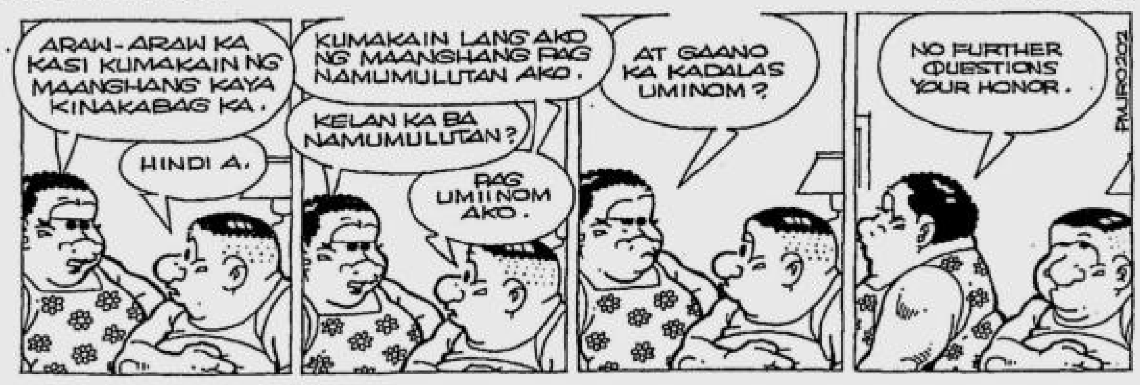
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ISANG MILYONG DOLYAR ANG BINAYAD SA PR FIRM?!
SAYANG! KUNG GINAMIT PA YUN SA MAHIHIRAP... NAKATULONG PA SANA!
SA IMAGE KO?
SA ELECTION!
AY, SAYANG!

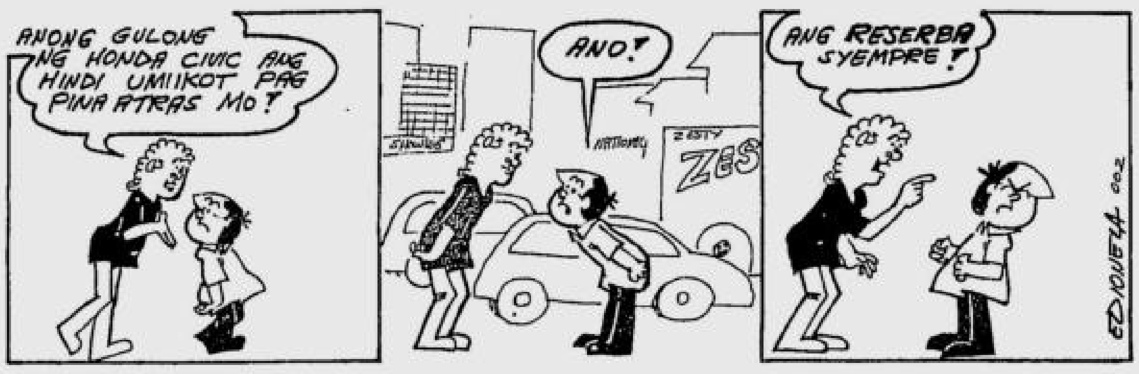
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ARAW-ARAW KA KASI KUMAKAIN NG MAANGHANG KAYA KINAKABAG KA.
HINDI A.
KUMAKAIN LANG AKO NG MAANGHANG PAG NAMUMULUTAN AKO.
KELAN KA BA NAMUMULUTAN?
PAG UMIINOM AKO.
AT GAANO KA KADALAS UMINOM?
NO FURTHER QUESTIONS YOUR HONOR.
PMJR0202

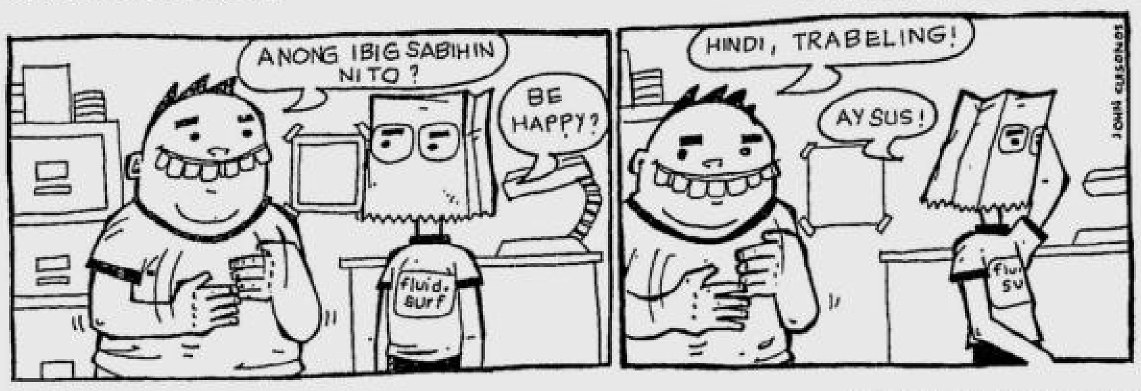
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANONG GULONG NG HONDA CIVIC ANG HINDI UMIIKOT PAG PINA ATRAS MO?
ANO?
ZES
ANG RESERBA SYEMPRE!
EDIONELA 002

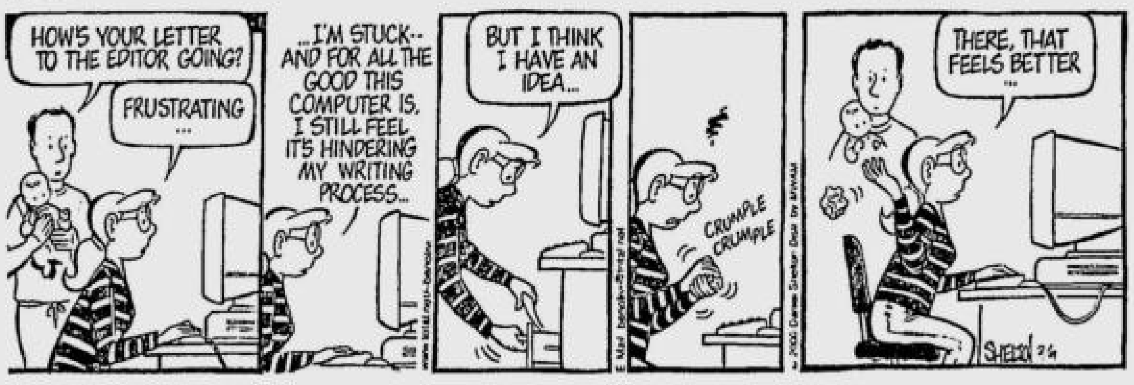
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL CUISON


ANONG IBIG SABIHIN NITO?
BE HAPPY?
fluid surf
HINDI, TRABELING!
AY SUS!
JOHN CUISON 02

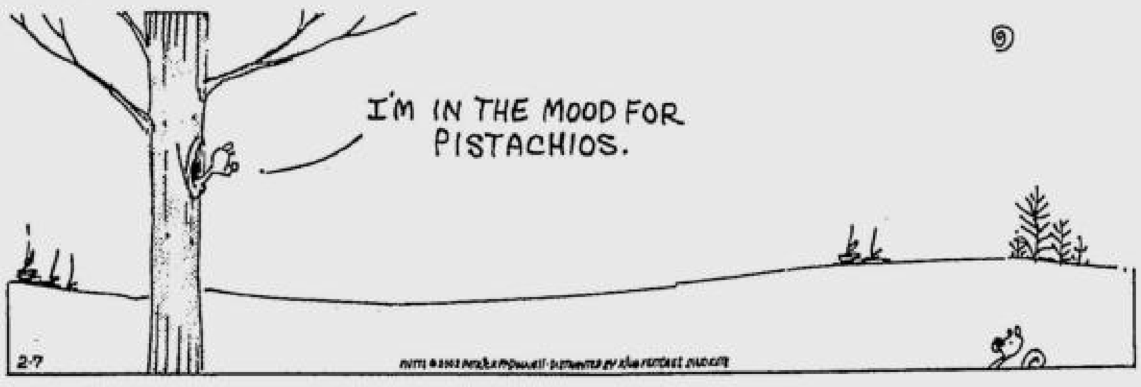
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HOW'S YOUR LETTER TO THE EDITOR GOING?
FRUSTRATING ...
...I'M STUCK-- AND FOR ALL THE GOOD THIS COMPUTER IS, I STILL FEEL IT'S HINDERING MY WRITING PROCESS...
BUT I THINK I HAVE AN IDEA...
CRUMPLE CRUMPLE
THERE, THAT FEELS BETTER ...
SHELTON

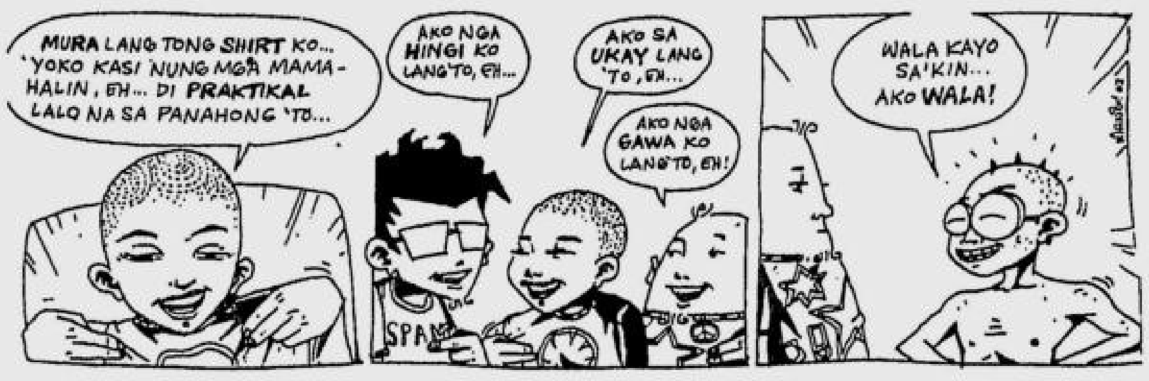
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I'M IN THE MOOD FOR PISTACHIOS.
2-7

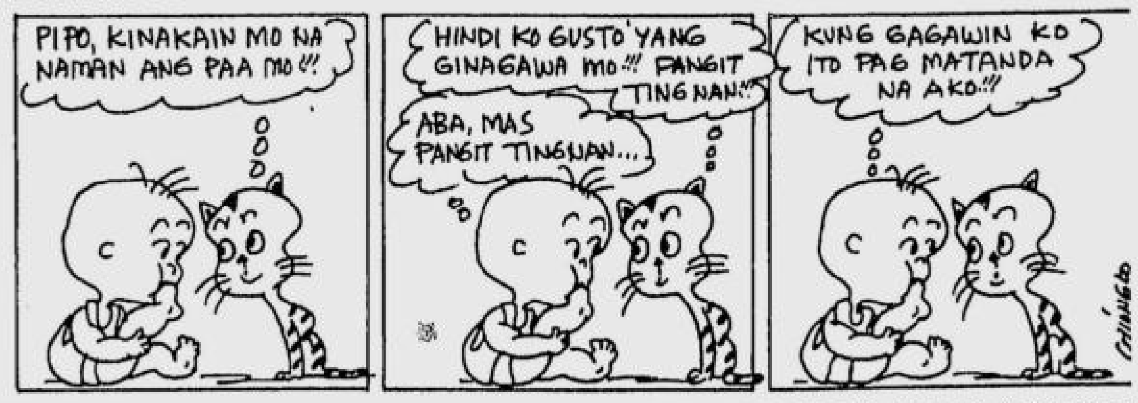
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


MURA LANG TONG SHIRT KO... 'YOKO KASI 'NUNG MGA MAMAHALIN, EH... DI PRAKTIKAL LALO NA SA PANAHONG 'TO...
AKO NGA HINGI KO LANG'TO, EH...
AKO SA UKAY LANG 'TO, EH...
AKO NGA GAWA KO LANG'TO, EH!
WALA KAYO SA'KIN... AKO WALA!
SPAM

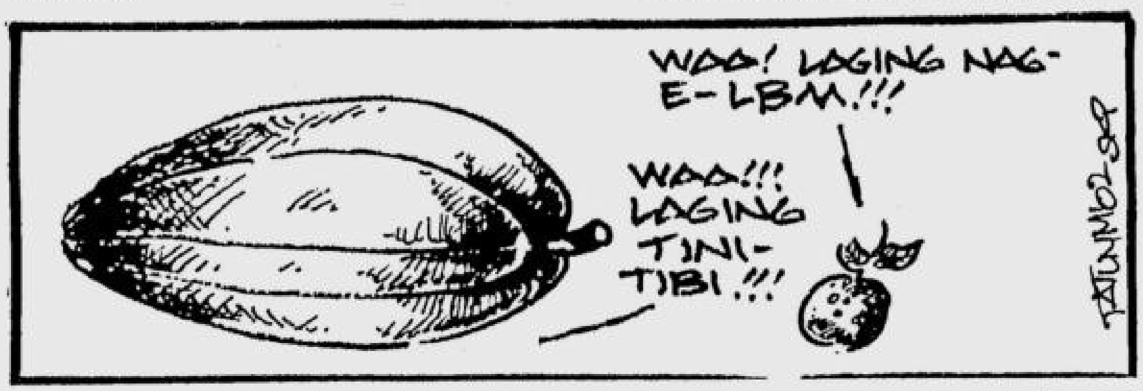
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PIPO, KINAKAIN MO NA NAMAN ANG PAA MO!!!
HINDI KO GUSTO 'YANG GINAGAWA MO!!! PANGIT TINGNAN!!!
ABA, MAS PANGIT TINGNAN...
KUNG GAGAWIN KO ITO PAG MATANDA NA AKO!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

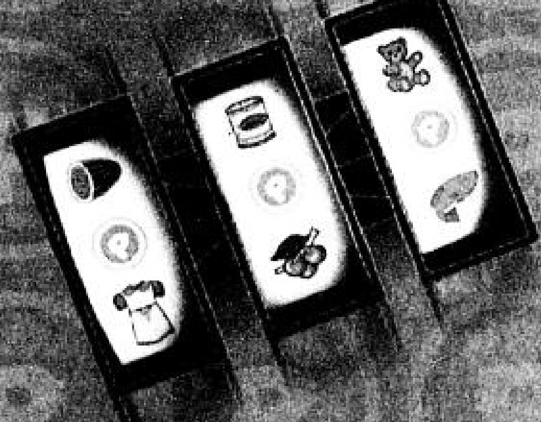

WAA! LAGING NAG-E-LBM!!!
WAA!!! LAGING TINI-TIBI!!!
TATUM02-SP

SHOPWISE

LIBIS NOW OPEN

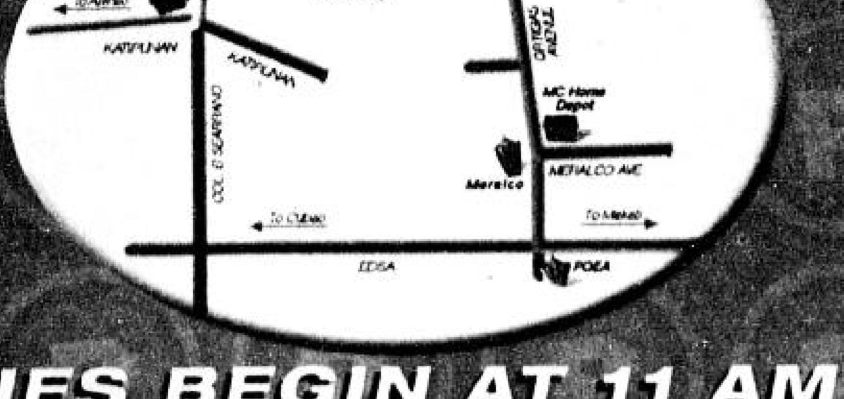
we value your lifestyle!

value **freshness** **convenience** **variety**



SHOPWISE LIBIS is at 150 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Bagumbayan, Quezon City

Find us here!


Citibank
Eastwood
SHOPWISE
Red Ribbon
Flyover Bridge
To Makati
Caltex
Jollibee
LIBIS C5
To Aliman
KATIPUNAN
KATIPUNAN
COL. E. SCARINO
OFFICIAL AVENUE
MC Home Depot
Meralco
MERALCO AVE
To Cubao
To Makati
EDSA
POEA

FESTIVITIES BEGIN AT 11 AM

ALSO IN: **ALABANG** Left Wi | Fest Supermall | Filinvest | Alabang Zapote Road • **MAKATI** Corner of Pasong Tamo and Vito Cruz Extension

A whiff of Chinatown in steel Makati

Hua Lan is a basket of flowering Cantonese delights to jaded office workers of the country's business district

From page C1

cently introduced *lechon kawali* are also among the most calorie-laden. Too sinful for you? The soy chicken, *asado* white chicken and other chicken combinations are perhaps more to your liking.

On top of the de rigueur *asado* and beef *siomai*, Hua Lan features such dimsum specialties as *hakaw* (steamed shrimp in translucent wrapper) and Japanese *siomai* (crab sticks and shredded pork wrapped in seaweed). Both appetizers are tasty and light, leaving you with enough room for the main course.

Specialties include seafood green soup, a bright and rich concoction of pureed beef, squid, mushrooms, egg white and strips of spinach. The stuffed bean curd is not just your ordinary fried *tokwa*, but loaded in the middle with minced pork, crabmeat and spices. The Hua Lan fried rice, also known as the Chinese *paella*, teems with pork, chicken, mushroom and vegetable bits and served in a thick, light brown sauce.

Freshness

Hua Lan also puts premium on freshness. A dimsum cart, for instance, is wheeled within the dining area and constantly replenished during lunchtime. "We don't have a central commissary," says Tangsoc. "Every dish is cooked right inside the kitchen."

Business hours are from 11 a.m.-11 p.m., but the restaurant accepts orders within Makati an hour before it opens (tel. 895-1681/5676, 896-7828. It has adequate parking as well. "This place is packed with office workers during lunchtime," says Tangsoc. "We've also noticed an increase in the number of family diners during weekends." From Feb. 11-18, the restaurant will give a free dish to every four patrons as part of its Chinese New Year cum Valentine's Day promo.

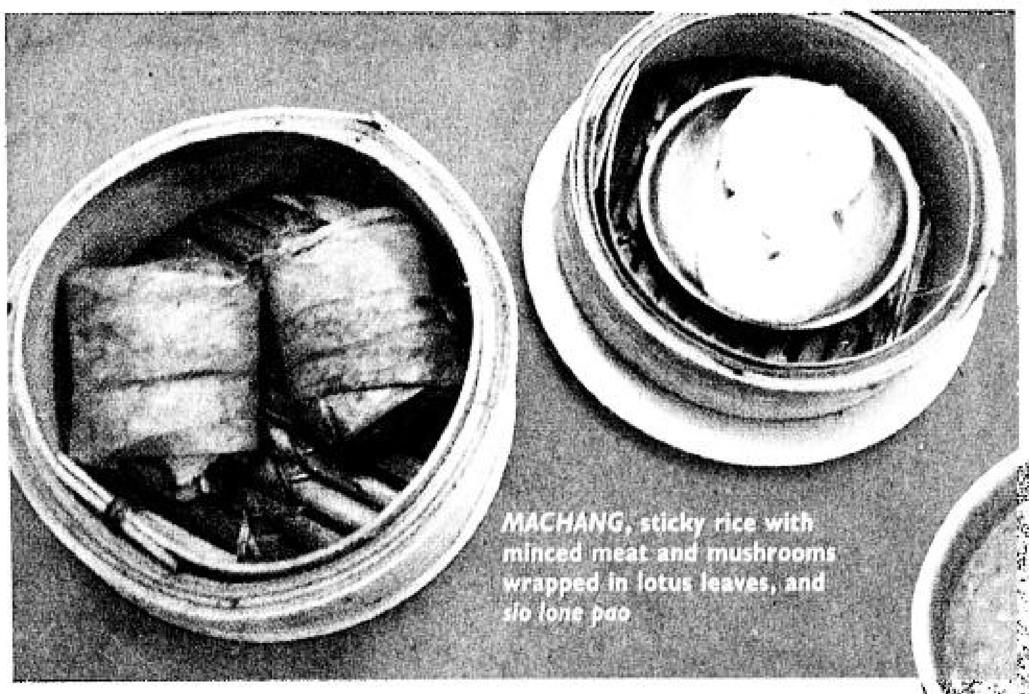
Tomas and wife Claire form part of a group that includes Tony Suiza, Leo Labrador and Cebu-based Winglip Chang. The latter gained a reputation among Cebuano epicures when he first opened the Grand Majestic, a lauriat-style Cantonese restaurant, almost 16 years ago. Under his direction, they hired the services of a Hong Kong-based chef to develop Hua Lan's menu. The restaurant currently has eight cooks.

"Hua Lan is a realization of his (Chang's) dream to open a restaurant in Manila," says Claire, who manages Hua Lan's day-to-day operations with Tomas. "I agreed to help provided we don't put up a fine-dining restaurant. But my husband and I are enjoying every minute of this new experience." The Tangsocs are exploring the possibility of opening a second branch either in Quezon City or in San Juan.

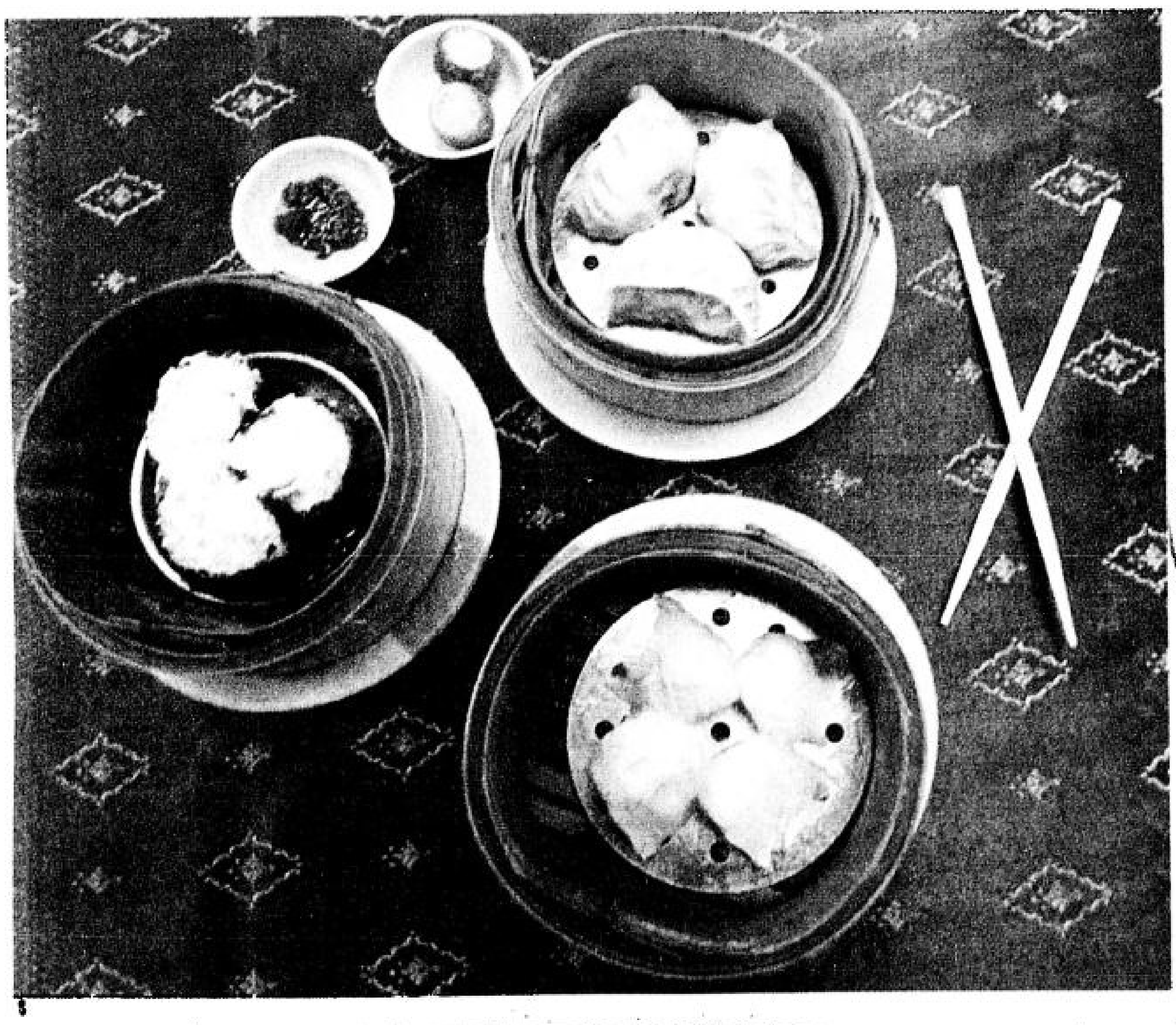
The words Hua Lan, by the way, mean flower basket in Mandarin. To Tomas Tangsoc, however, they could also mean a squeal of delight, especially after one savors the restaurant's offerings: "Hua Lan Jo!" They certainly haven't thought of that one in Chinatown.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

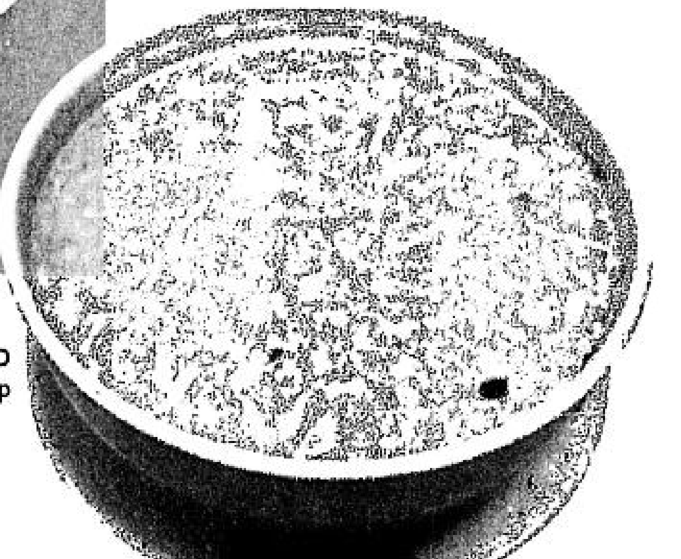
STUFFED beancurd



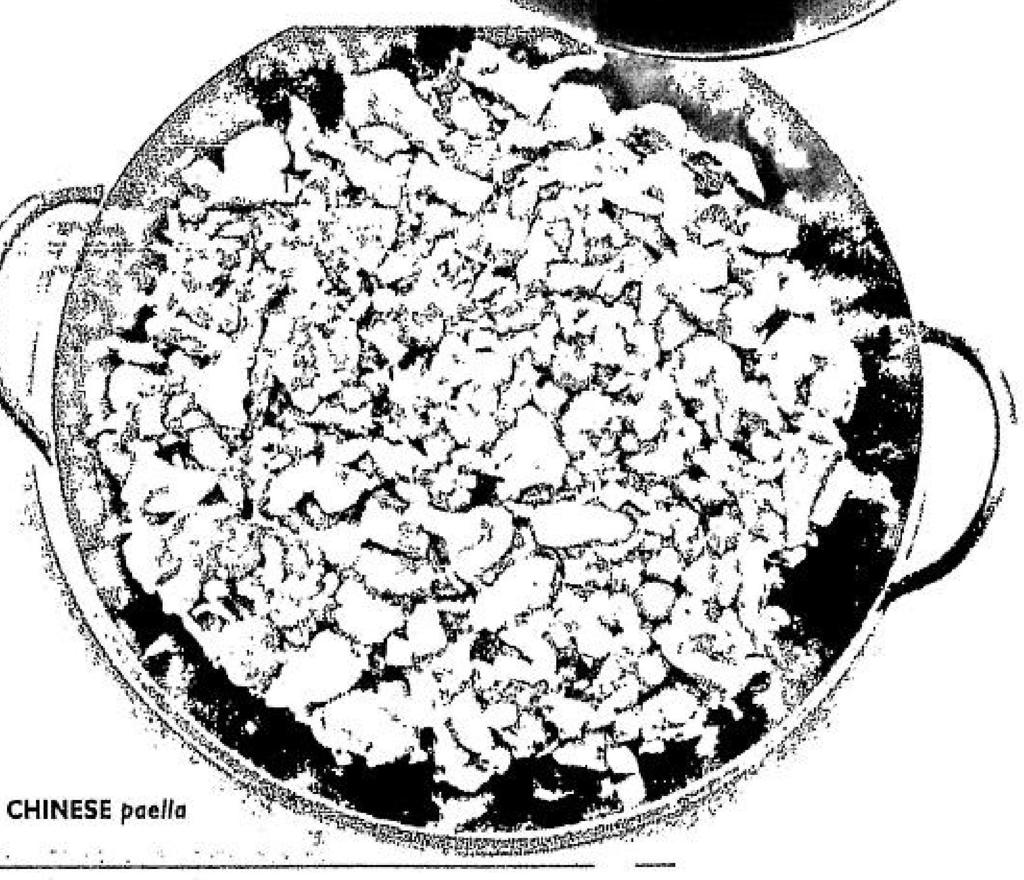
MACHANG*, sticky rice with minced meat and mushrooms wrapped in lotus leaves, and *sio lone pao



ASSORTED dimsums: Japanese *siomai*, shark's fin *siomai* and *hakaw*



SEAFOOD green soup



CHINESE *paella*

Celebrate the Year of the Horse with buffet of Chinese specialties

DINING-OUT

JADE GARDEN offers its Lucky Set Menu on Feb. 8-28. Dishes prepared by its Hong Kong chefs include Roasted Meat Combination, Fish Lips Soup with Sea Cucumber, Peking Duck, Hong Kong Dried Oysters with Sea Moss, Steamed King Fish, Crabs with Ginger and Spring Onion, Minced Duck with Lettuce, Yeung Chow Fried Rice and desserts like mango shake with *sago* plus fried Chinese *tikoy* (sweet rice cake). The set menu comes with two boxes of complimentary *tikoy*. For purchases of five boxes of special *tikoy*, one box is given free.

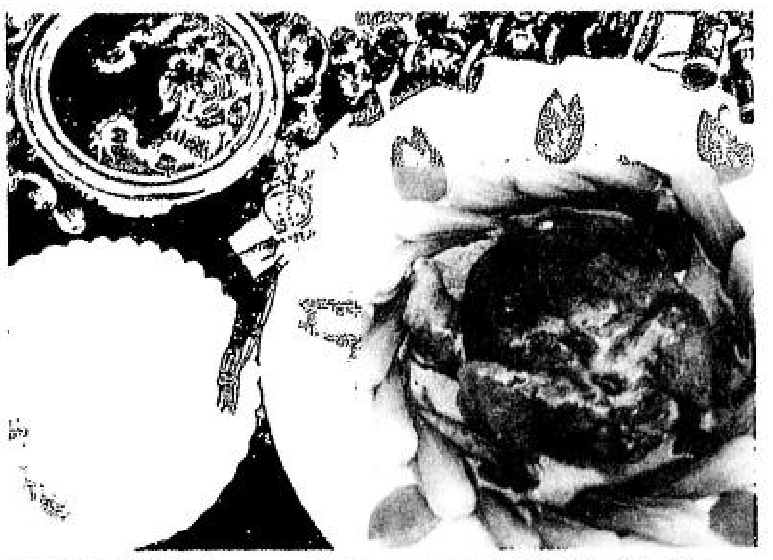
PEKING GARDEN invites diners to partake of its specially prepared Prosperity Lauriat set menu. Lauriat dishes include four kinds of appetizers for four seasons of peace and safety, Shark's Fin with Shredded Chicken in Almond Soup, Peking Duck, Baked Prawns with Butter and Garlic, Braised Dried Oysters with Sea Moss and Lettuce, Steamed Hilsa Herring Fish, Deep-fried Peppercorn Crabs, Eight Treasure Chicken, and desserts Souffle Balls with Mashed Beans and Banana and Chilled Mango Shake with Sago. Available for lunch and dinner Feb.8-28. Peking Garden is at Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City. Call 817-9066 or 819-9067.

DUSIT HOTEL NIKKO'S The Cafe restaurant presents "The Year of the Horse Feast," featuring buffet spreads of Chinese specialties available for lunch and dinner on Feb. 12. Start with deep-fried shark's fin, pork cutlets, or spring rolls, Chinese-style braised ox tongue, century egg in Chinese vinegar, roast duck, or soya chicken. Load up with these salad varieties: *kimchi*, Chinese bean sprouts and tofu, bamboo shoots, water chestnuts and spinach in Chinese vinegar, or young broccoli. Or have a fill of warm soups like bird's nest, seafood with white fungus, shark's fin soup with quail eggs, or hot and sour soup with Szechuan vegetables.

Call 867-3333 local 3346/3347.

MAKATI SHANGRI-LA offers traditional yam and coconut-flavored *tikoy* (Chinese sticky rice) at the Shang Palace and Gourmet Corner until Feb.14. Imperial-style New Year banquets await families at Shang Palace until Feb. 20. Chef Alan Tsang presents three set menus consisting of Roast Suckling Pig Combination, Roast Nam Yee and Steamed Lapu-Lapu Kirin-style for lunch and dinner. Chef Tsang also prepared à la carte selections like Braised Shark's Fin Soup with Crab Roe, Sauteed Sliced Duck with Green Peas and flavored rice cakes. Dimsum selections like Steamed Beancurd Skin Rolls, Dry Oyster Siomai and New Year Tang Yuan will also be available for lunch. Cheval Blanc offers a seven-course menu on Feb. 13, 14 and 15, consisting of Salmon Roulade filled with Crab Meat for appetizer followed by Warm Lobster Salad with Baby Vegetable Ratatouille.

Call 840-0884.



STUFFED Eight Treasures Chicken and Lucky Souffle Balls are included in Peking Garden's Prosperity Lauriat set menu.

JADE Garden's Lucky Set Menu includes Hong Kong dried oysters with sea moss and delicious special *tikoy* (Chinese rice cake).

MANILA GALLERIA SUITES' Raphael Café-Restaurant presents the Chinese Food Festival until Feb. 15. Chef Stefan Farkas prepares *jiaozi* or Chinese dumplings to symbolically spread luck and wealth to diners. It's served with Peanut Soup with Deep Fried Dough, Fresh Noodles with Pacific Clam and Sea Asparagus, and Peking Duck. Call 633-7111 local 7440/7416.

MANDARIN ORIENTAL'S executive Chinese chef Andy Chan and his culinary team welcome the Year of the Water Horse with "First Lucky Meal" on Chinese New Year's eve on Feb.11, at the hotel's grand ballroom. Among the specialty dishes to be featured are Steamed Pork Siomai with Caviar, Deep-fried Spring Roll with Chicken and Taro, Barbecued Meat Combination, Hot and Sour Soup, Sautéed Cuttle Fish with Chicken and Vegetables, Pan-fried Beef Tenderloin in Honey Pepper Sauce, Green Vegetables and Japanese Mushroom with Oyster Sauce, Yang Chow Fried Rice, Deep-fried Sesame Balls and Chilled Mango Puree with Sago. Call 750-8888 local 2635.

THE WESTIN PHILIPPINE PLAZA'S China Sea Restaurant offers Chinese New Year set menus prepared by Chef Sin Kwok Fai Feb. 8-12. Included in the set menus are Stewed Black Moss with Dried Mussels, Braised Wintermelon Soup with Seaweeds, Dried Scallops Soup and Braised Dried Seafood and Pork Leg with Black Moss in Pot and Good Luck Fried Rice. Call 551-5555 local 1528.

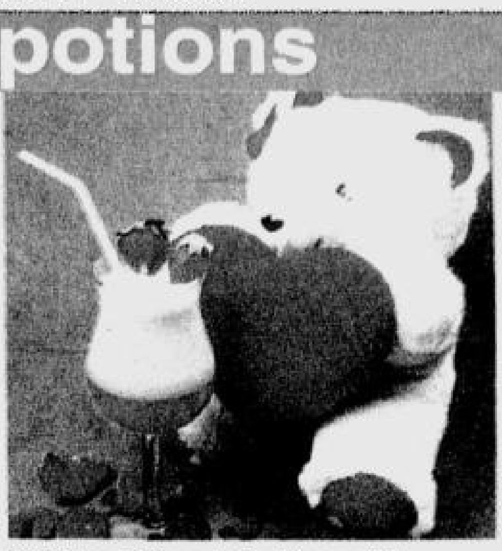
HOLIDAY INN MANILA has prepared a family feast of Chinese specialties at the Pavilion Court Feb.11-15. Call 526-1212 local 2503.

HOTEL INTER-CONTINENTAL MANILA offers Chinese New Year Buffet at the Cafe Jeepney until Feb.12. Try Fish Lips with Black Mushroom in Clear Soup, Century Egg with Seaweed and Plum Sauce and Deep-fried Mashed Taro. Guests may also feast on Sautéed Lapu-Lapu Fillet with Szechuan Sauce, Crunchy Noodles with Beef and Black Bean Sauce, Lemon Chicken, Sautéed Pork with Waterchestnuts, Cantonese Style Beef Tenderloin, Squid with Black Pepper Sauce and Garlic Shrimps with Oyster Sauce. Call 819-0645 or 815-9711 local 771-773.

Love potions

COOL down fiery hearts this February with Valentine Squeeze, an ice-cold mix of fresh orange juice, Arctic Vodka, Grand Marnier, calamansi nectar and grenadine syrup. Only P295++ inclusive of a Valentine mini bear. Available at the Hotel Inter-Continental Manila until Feb. 28. Call 819-0645.

LUV-A-BEAR, Holiday Inn Manila's special brew for the month of February is a concoction of fresh and green mangoes, *guyabano* juice, Havana Dark Rum and grenadine syrup. Bring home Luv-A-Bear stuffed toy for every glass order of this special concoction. Call 526-1212 local 2317.



HUGS and Kisses is Dusit's special Valentine cocktail drink, a unique blend of Havana rum and Southern Comforter rum mixed with strawberry ice cream and topped with fresh strawberries. Sample a glass and get a huggable bear for only P450. (Rate is exclusive of customary service charge and applicable government taxes.) Available at the Lobby Lounge or at any food and beverage outlet. Call 867-3333 extension 3360.

MANILA Midtown Hotel's featured Valentine drink, Romance, is a blend of vodka, Baileys Cream and fresh orange, *guyabano* and pineapple juices with a dash of grenadine syrup. Romance comes with a sweet, heart-bearing bird toy. Available for the whole month of February at the Orchid Bar, Vogue Coffeshop and Sports Oasis Poolside Snack Bar. Call 526-7001 local 6551.

AT 10 Years After, participants enjoy the food trip challenge.

Seeing and tasting red

BAR hoppers and fine diners in QC and Ortigas sampled the world's No. 1 tomato ketchup when Heinz Tomato Ketchup decided to paint the town red recently.

It was the third stop of the Heinz Bar & Restaurant Tour, and this time around its team surprised guests at Quattro Grill & Bar, Burgoo, Vintage, Cafea, East St. Louis and Ten Years After in QC, and Tequila Joe's, TGIF, and Congo Grill in Ortigas. The tour also covered the bar and restaurant rows of Malate, Libis and Rockwell, Makati.

Guests found themselves taking part in fun-filled food trip challenges, backed only by the 100 percent, all-natural premium tomato goodness of Heinz Ketchup. The others, while watching the contest, treated themselves to a generous serving of their favorite dish along with that "thicker, richer and tastier tomato ketchup."

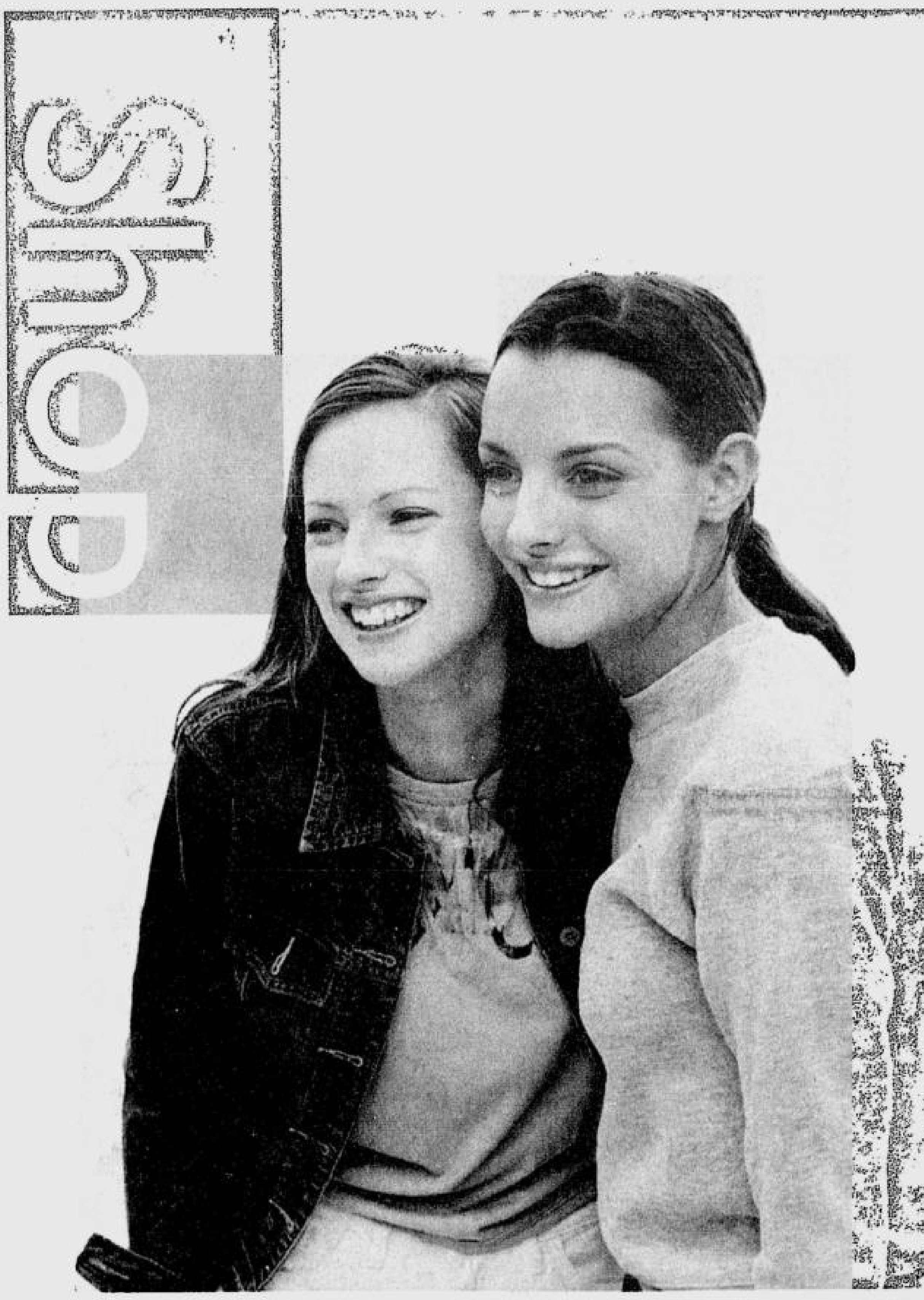
While only the game participants won exclusive Heinz prizes, everybody nonetheless had a wonderful night.

This promotional blitz is proof of Heinz's sweeping invasion of the Philippine market, which now forms part of the company's over 200 major locations worldwide.

In the US alone, Heinz has a 50 percent share of the retail ketchup market, which is twice that of its nearest competitor. The company produces more than a billion ounces of Heinz Ketchup a year.

AT BURGOO in Quezon City, children have fun during the Heinz contest.

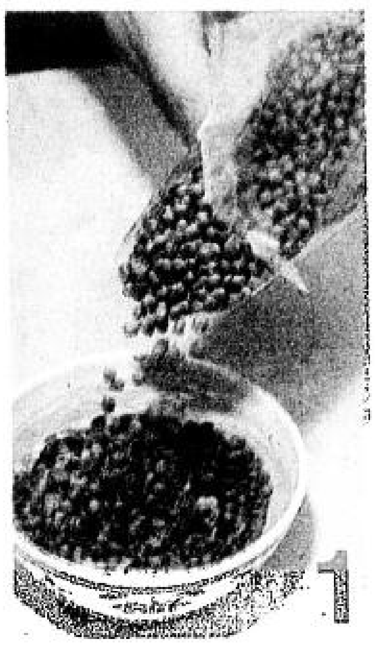
HEINZ goes on a restaurant tour at Congo Grill in Ortigas.



Shop
now open
— THE —
PODIUM
C'est la vie
18 adb avenue, ortigas center
AND 1
arena
ARROW EST 1851 IN AMERICA
BRAUN BÜFFEL DESIGN SINCE 1887 GERMANY
CMG
FUBU THE COLLECTION
G-FACTORY
LACOSTE CHAUSSURES
MARITHÉ FRANÇOIS GIRBAUD
[illegible]
the jigsaw shop
LES LUNETTES DE PARIS
NUNN BUSH
BRIDGESTONE
[illegible]
THE BODY SHOP
OPTICAL Works
swatch
SPEEDO
Shell Canvas
ROCKPORT

'Hopia's' delicate, flaky, crispy quality comes from the layering of butter and corn oil in the dough, plus the sweet, delicious and creamy filling

SERVE *hopia* warm or cool with a cup of freshly brewed coffee or hot tea.



SOAK *mongo* beans in a bowl of water for four hours. Rub the beans to remove the hulls. Drain the water and rinse the beans well in running water. Steam *mongo* for 1½ hours, then mash it. Combine mongo with sugar and corn oil and cook for 45 minutes in a pan, stirring continuously to blend everything well.

Greet the Chinese New Year with your own 'hopia'

By Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Roger Carpio

TO CELEBRATE the Chinese New Year, which begins Feb. 12, Lifestyle is featuring a special Chinese snack enjoyed by almost all Filipinos: *hopia* or *mung*-bean cake.

STEP-BY-STEP

Making *hopia* at home is not as difficult as you think. You can enjoy hopia anywhere and anytime you want it by making it yourself. Gerry Chua of the famous Eng Bee Tin Chinese Deli teaches us how to make this *mongo*-based favorite the traditional way.

"The process of making *hopia* is simple and easy," Chua says.

He explains that the delicate, flaky, crispy quality of the bean cake comes from the layering of butter and corn oil in the dough, plus the sweet, delicious and creamy filling that goes into it.

Chua, the third generation owner of Eng Bee Tin (which means Ever, Beauty and Precious), made the first *hopia ube*, *hopia pandan* and *hopia piña* in the country. These products are now being exported to the United States, including Alaska; Hong Kong and Paris. Chua, who also runs Café Mezzanine of the Chuan Kee Restaurant in Binondo (628 Ongpin corner Nueva Streets) is now the president of the Filipino-Chinese Bakery Association. He is also the president of the East Binondo Volunteer Fire Brigade.

Chua says that to achieve a soft and creamy *hopia* filling, 100 percent pure corn oil has to be used in the *mung* bean paste for better flavor and smooth texture. A really flaky skin comes from the process of folding and rolling out the dough. Two sets of dough are prepared and are made into balls. Balls from the second dough are placed in the inside balls from the first dough.

"This is done so that the dough will have enough layers for the filling," says Chua. The process of folding and rolling out has to be repeated twice or thrice. The dough must be allowed to "relax" after each sequence of rolling and folding for 25 minutes to one hour.

To prepare the filling, you will need *mung* or *mongo* beans (split in half). The beans have to be soaked in water for four hours to expand the flesh and remove the husks. Water with *mongo* skin is drained and the beans rinsed in running water.

Steam *mongo* for 1½ hours, then mash it well. Mix mashed *mongo* with 750 g sugar and 50 g corn oil. Cook the mixture for 45 minutes in a pan in low heat, stirring continuously to blend everything well. Allow to cool.

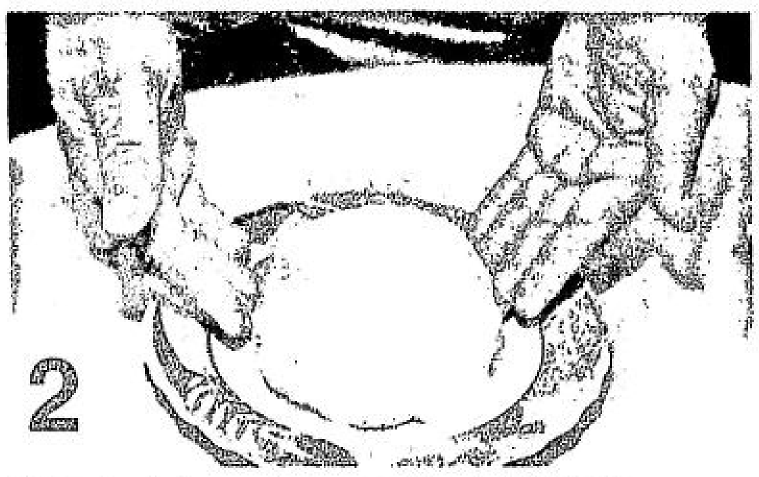
If you do not want to make the *mung* bean paste, you can buy prepared bean paste in most Chinese groceries and delis like Eng Bee Tin Chinese Deli at P80 per kilo (tel. 242-9765 to 66).

Filling:
1 kg *mung* bean or *mongo*, split in half
5 c water
750 g sugar
50 g corn oil

First dough:
2 c all-purpose flour
10 tbsp water
5 tbsp corn oil
2 tbsp butter

Second dough:
1 c flour
5 tbsp corn oil

For suggestions, e-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

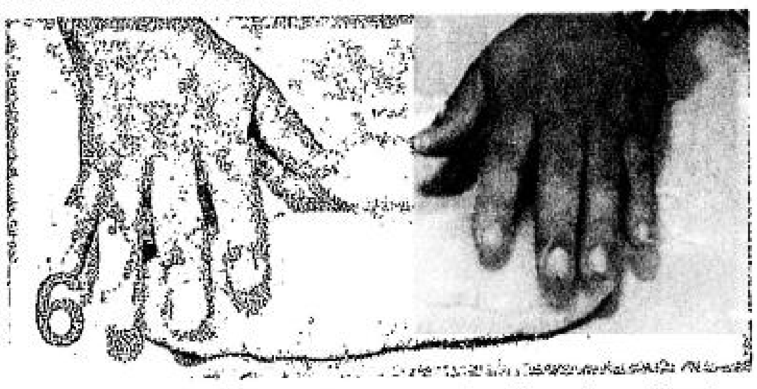


LET cool and shape cooked mongo into a ball. Set aside.

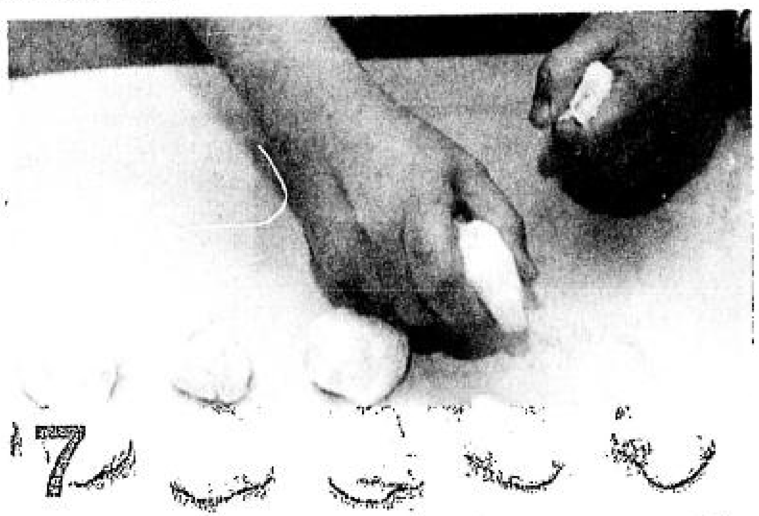
FOR THE FIRST dough, combine flour, water, corn oil and butter in a bowl.

MIX well and shape dough into a big ball. Let it "rest" for 30 minutes.

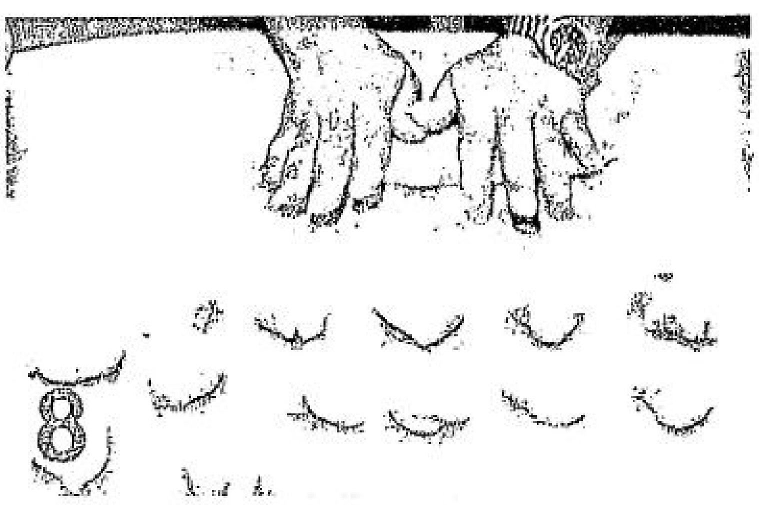
MIX flour and corn oil well for the second dough. Form a big ball and set it aside for 30 minutes.



ON A CLEAN surface, sprinkle about 2 tbsp flour then roll out the first dough.

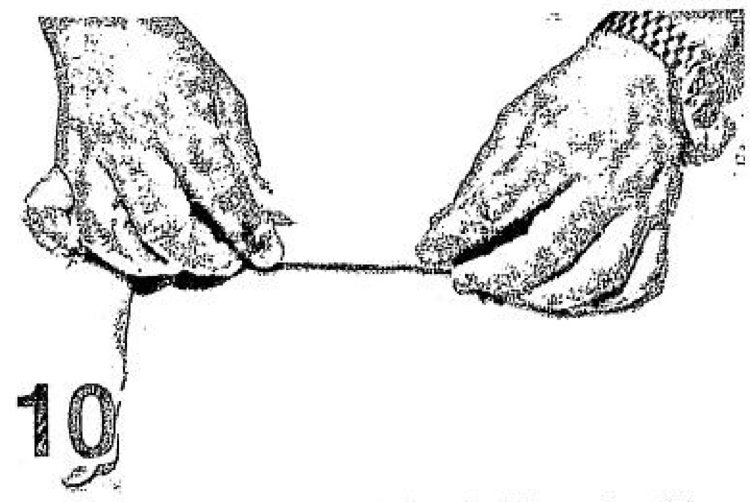


ROLL pieces of the first dough into small balls (about 20 g each or 2-inch circles).

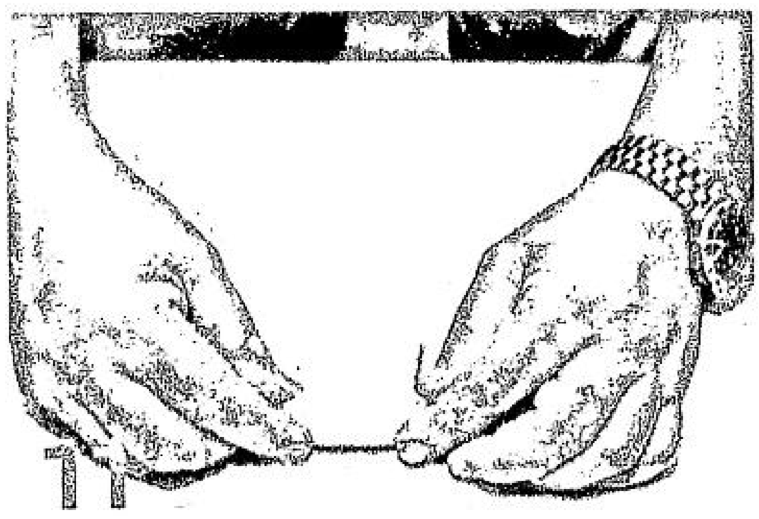


ROLL out the second dough. As with the first, roll pieces of the dough into balls, which should be smaller than those from the first.

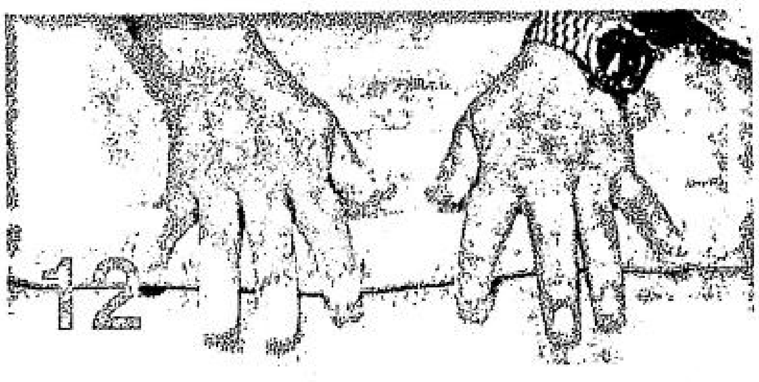
FLATTEN each ball from the first dough and place one ball from the second dough in the center. Gather the edges to enclose completely the filling. Pinch the edges securely to seal. Allow to "rest" for five minutes. Prepare the remaining pieces of dough in the same manner.



FLATTEN, fold and roll out each ball again. Allow to "rest" for five minutes. Do this twice. To prevent sticking, you may occasionally put flour on the work surface using as little flour as possible.



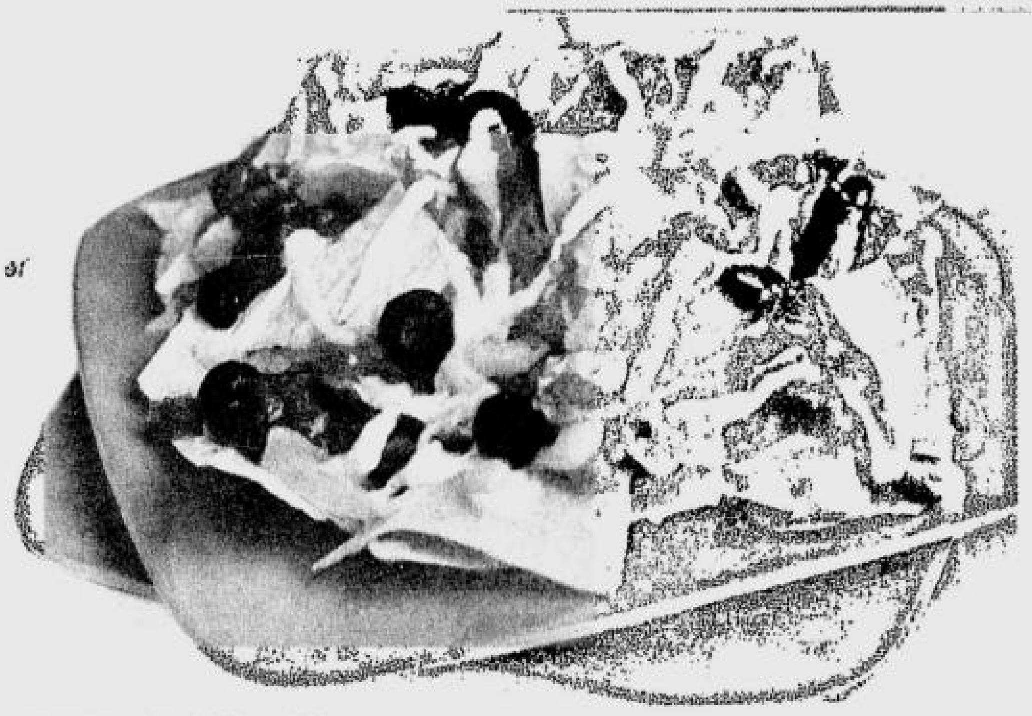
ROLL and fold again the balls two more times and allow to "rest" for five minutes.



GET your *mongo* filling and roll it to form a tube, then roll the filling into small balls.

FLATTEN the dough and place a *mongo* ball in the center.

PINCH the edges to seal. Bake in 425°C oven for 15 minutes.



NACHOS with Chili and Cheese

Tender and juicy servings

PUREFOODS Corp., makers of Tender Juicy Hotdogs and processed meats such as ham, bacon, corned beef and lots more, has joined the San Miguel Group. Other members of the San Miguel Food Group includes Monterey, Magnolia Chicken, CampoCarne, Anchor Butter, Dari Creme, Magnolia Cheese and Star Margarine.

The San Miguel Culinary Center features creative dishes using Purefoods products. Whether it is a morning snack choice between Eggs Benedict with Spam or Chili Dog, or *merienda* time dilemma of Nachos with Chili and Cheese or a Pasta Salad, the center makes sure they are all easy recipes.

For more recipe ideas, visit www.sanmiguelculinary.com or send a self-addressed stamped envelope to San Miguel Culinary Center, corner Legaspi and Eagle Streets, Bo. Ugong, Pasig City.

Nachos with Chili and Cheese

100 g nacho chips
1 can Purefoods Chili con Carne, reheated
2 tbsp sliced black olives
2 tbsp bottled *jalapeno* peppers, sliced
½ c sour cream
Cheese sauce:
½ c Magnolia Cheezee Spread
2 tbsp full cream milk
Salsa:
1 c tomatoes, coarsely chopped
1 pc white onion, coarsely chopped
3 tbsp cilantro, chopped
¼ tsp chili pepper
½ tsp paprika
¼ tsp ground cumin
1 tbsp tomato sauce
1 tsp salt
1 tbsp lemon juice

Cheese sauce:

Combine all ingredients in a bowl. Microwave on medium setting for 2 minutes. Mix well until a smooth mixture is achieved.

Salsa:

Combine all ingredients in a bowl. Mix well and set aside.

Assembly:

Arrange nacho chips on a serving plate. Top with reheated chili con carne, olives and *jalapeno*. Pour cheese sauce, salsa and sour cream just before serving. Serve immediately. Makes 4-6 servings.

Chili Dog

4 pc Tender Juicy Jumbo Hotdogs, thawed
1 can Purefoods Chili con Carne, reheated
4 pc hotdog buns
¼ c chopped white onion
Oil for frying

Pan-fry hotdogs in oil over moderate heat until bright red in color (about 3-4 minutes).

TENDER/ p.C8

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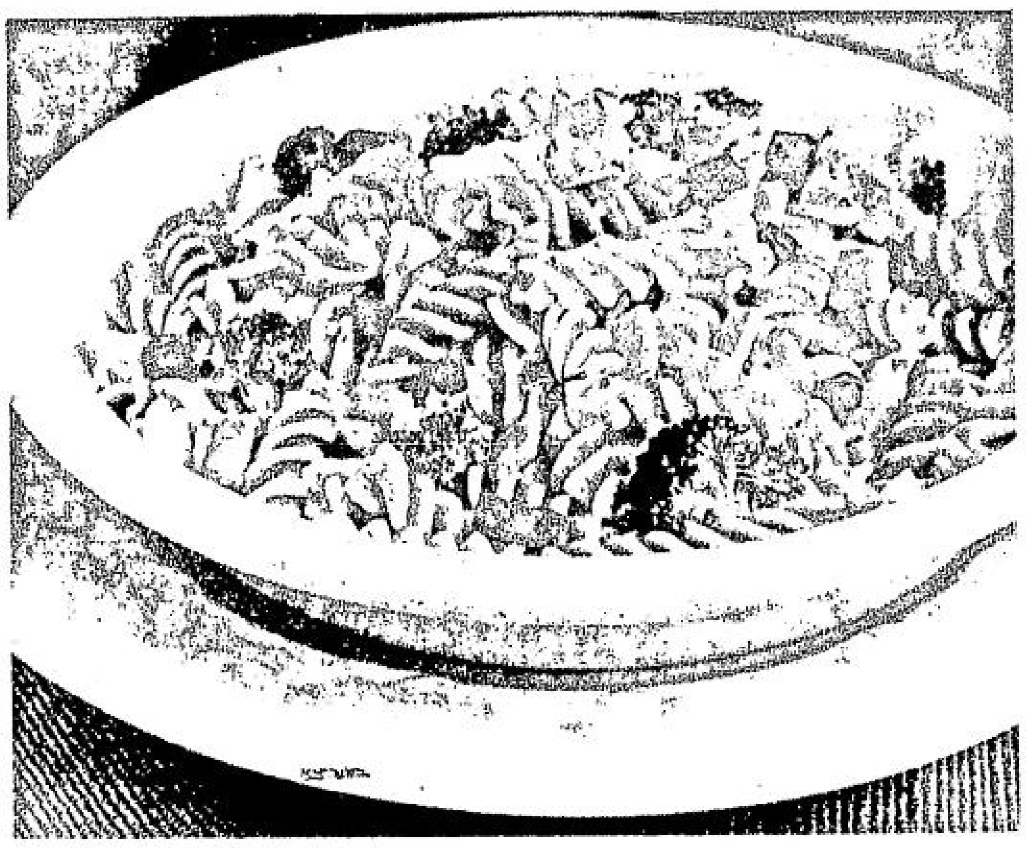
Per DTI -NCR Permit No.0325 Series of 2002 *Simply present your BPI Credit Card in the participating establishments to avail of premium and discount offers in the catalogue. See catalogue for details. Per DTI -NCR Permit No.A1-095 Series of 2002

Tender and juicy servings


PASTA and Ham Salad

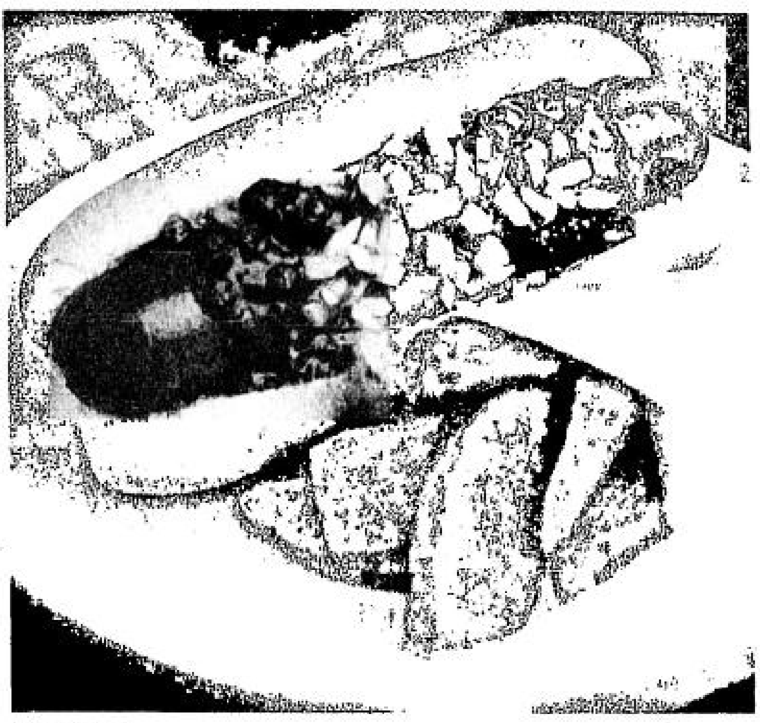
From page C7

Meanwhile, heat hotdog buns in the oven or oven toaster. Split buns and place hotdogs. Top with chili con carne and chopped onions. Makes 4 servings.

Pasta and Ham Salad

250 g Purefoods Sweet Ham, cut into strips
2 c broccoli flowerets
½ c carrots, sliced into rounds
2 c salad pasta, cooked and cooled
1 c green bell pepper, sliced
1 c red bell pepper, sliced
½ c red onion, sliced
½ c creamy Italian salad dressing, store-bought

Cook broccoli flowerets and carrots in boiling water for 2-3 minutes or until done. Drain the hot water and plunge cooked vegetables in ice water to cool. Drain well and set aside. In a large bowl, combine cooked vegetables with cooked pasta, ham strips, bell peppers and onion. Toss with dressing. Makes 4 servings.

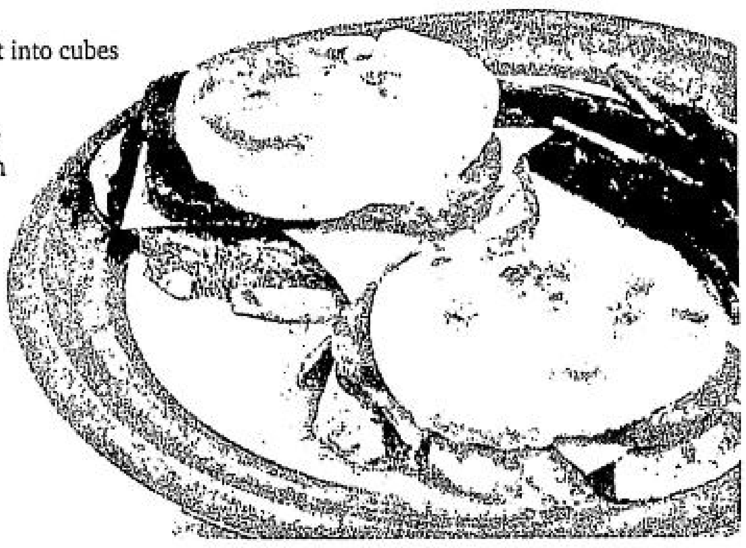

CHILI Dog

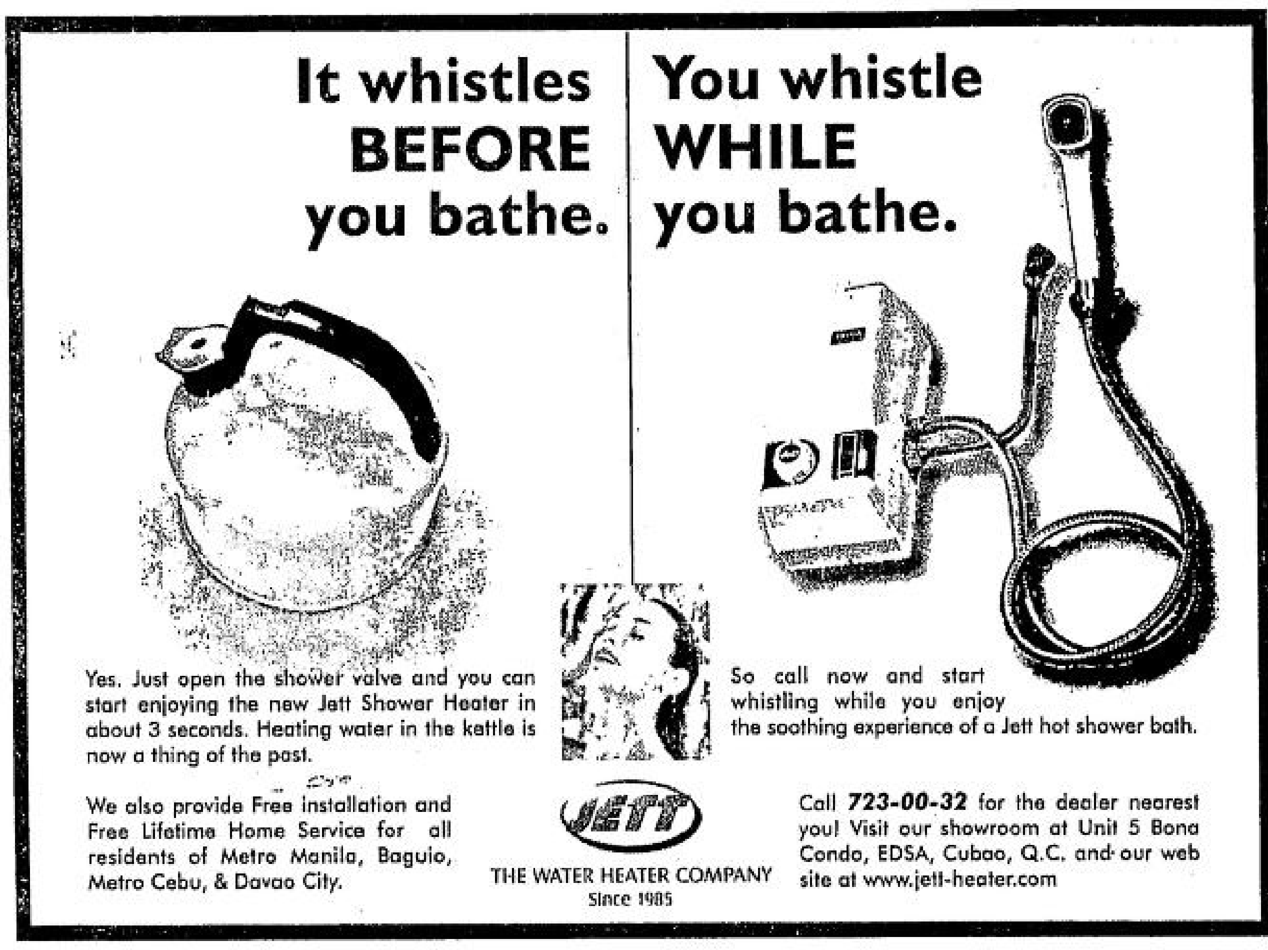
Eggs Benedict with Spam

1 can Spam, sliced crosswise into 8 slices
8 pc eggs
¼ c Anchor Butter
8 slices farmer's bread or whole wheat bread
8 slices Magnolia Cheese Singles
Hollandaise sauce:
3 pc egg yolks
2 tbsp lemon juice
½ c Anchor Butter, cut into cubes
½ tsp salt

Hollandaise sauce: Place yolks and lemon juice in a double boiler. Beat with a whisk until well-blended. Cook over hot (not boiling) water until lemon-colored. Add cubes of butter one at a time, while continuously stirring the mixture. Add salt just before removing mixture from heat; keep warm.

Pan-fry Spam slices over moderate heat, 1 minute per side; set aside. Poach eggs to desired doneness; keep warm. Preheat broiler, oven or oven-toaster to 350°F. To assemble, lightly spread butter on one side of each piece of bread. Top with cheese singles and bake until bread is lightly toasted and cheese has melted. Remove from heat then top with Spam slices and poached eggs. Pour hollandaise sauce on top and sprinkle with freshly ground pepper. Makes 8 servings.


EGGS Benedict with Spam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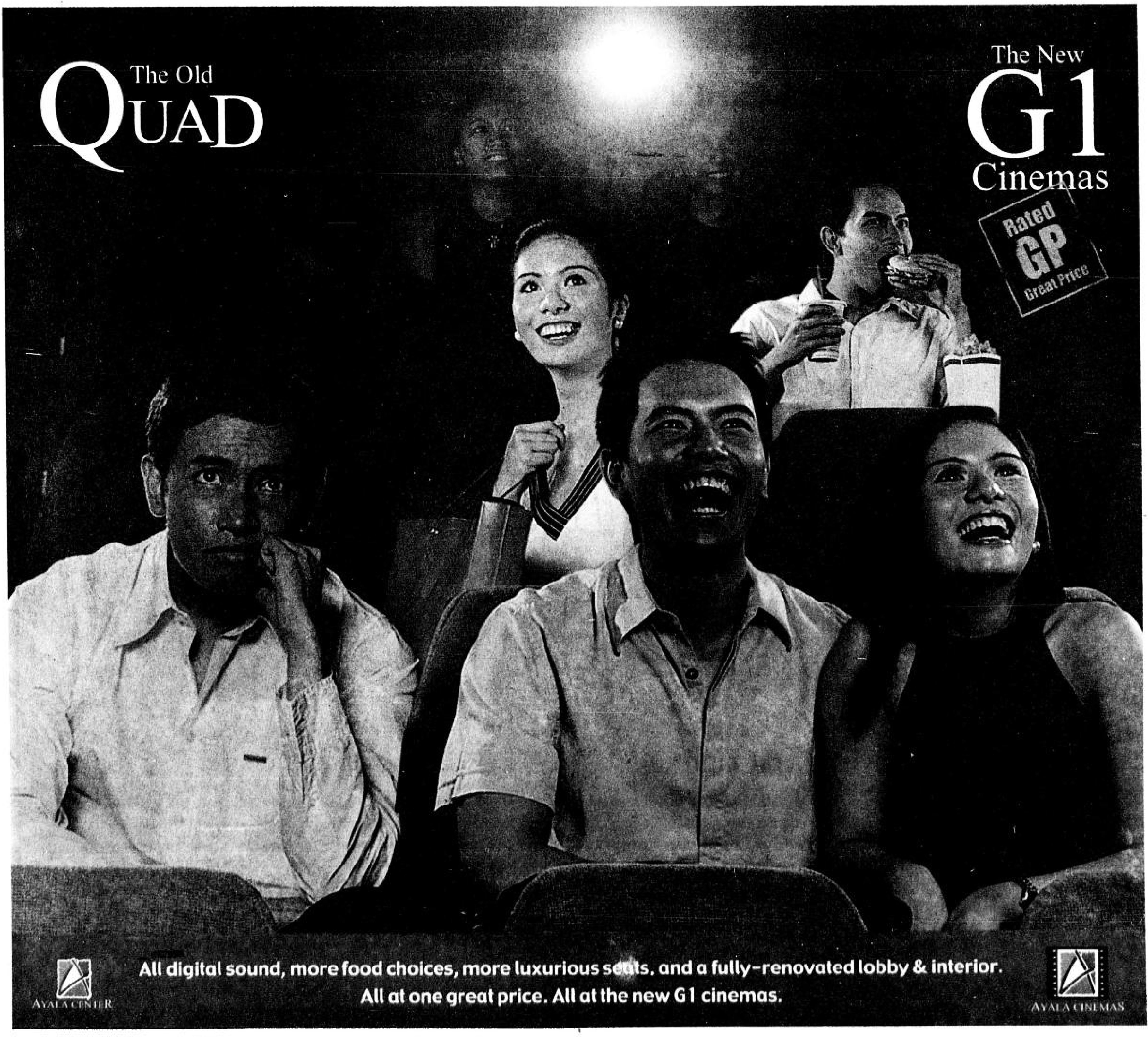

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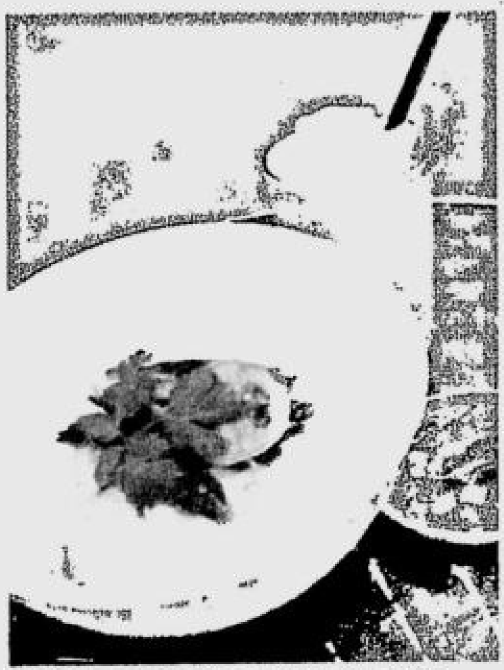
LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Be kind to your heart on Valentine's Day, and to your taste buds and your budget as well at CaféBola


SPICY *tuyo* with rice and *kamias* shake

Cubao restaurant serves food for the heart

IN GOOD TASTE

Doreen G. Fernandez

HURRY, hurry, take the train," as the song urges—and go to CaféBola in Cubao for the *kamias* shake: cool and pale green, sweet and tart, tasting of the tropics and backyard fruit trees, and absolutely marvelous. Margarita Fores, who conceived and runs CaféBola, credits the shake to Bencab the artist, who invented and designed it. It is now the crowning glory of the line of shakes: pomelo, *dalandan*, lemon, *kalamansi*, green mango and other fruits in season. Luckily, *kamias* (*Averrhoa bilimbi L.*, or *bilimbi* or cucumber tree) is in season year round, and Margarita gets her supply from trees in friends' and relatives' backyards.

CaféBola is at the Araneta Coliseum Arcade in Cubao, right under the dome beside the box office (tel. 923-2928), and it is open from 10 a.m. on. Margarita already designed and runs Cibo, the family Italian restaurant. She also does extensive catering and special meals. CaféBola, she says, is for her mass audience, starting with those who wander, market or shop in Cubao or view shows at the Big Dome.

The *bolas* of the title are pork, beef, chicken and seafood balls that can go into pasta sauces or with rice, can be halved and grilled in baguettes, or appear in another guise as Chicken Lolli-balls with Pink Mayonnaise on rice.

For brunch or any other time there are home breakfast specialties like: corned beef (canned, as in the old days) or Spam, sirloin *tapa* or "naked" (*hubad*) Ilonggo *chorizo* by Tita Aurora with an egg on rice; *adobo* flakes with *kesong puti* on rice. Up on the board and not yet on the menu are spicy *tuyo* filets on rice with scrambled eggs and tomato-*wansoy* salsa.

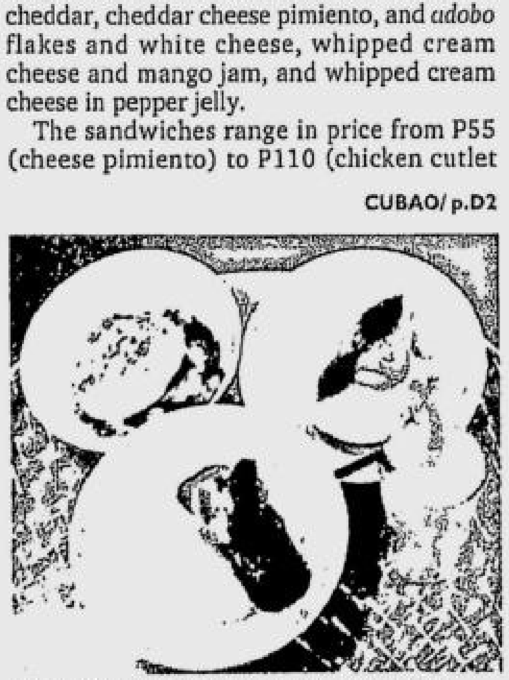
The home-brewed soups of the day were, when we were there: the 4 Cs—Cream of Carrot with Chives and Croutons; and Cream of Broccoli and Ham. The 4 Cs was subtle and savory, not at all what one would expect in a fast-service café.

Queen of pasta that she is, Margarita offers a tempting roster: spaghetti with tomato sauce and white cheese; tomato sauce and basil; tomato sauce with tuna and olives; with garlic, basil and olive oil; with Parmesan cream and bacon; with Parmesan cream, ham and rice. Her Pasta Super lists penne in tomato cream with Italian sausage or in garlic-olive oil with tuna and summer vegetables; spaghetti with baby crab fat, fish roe and asparagus; and penne in *chorizo*-Parmesan cream.

Aside from the *bola-bola* sandwiches, there are, of course: tuna salad, tuna salad with cheddar, cheddar cheese pimiento, and *adobo* flakes and white cheese, whipped cream cheese and mango jam, and whipped cream cheese in pepper jelly.

The sandwiches range in price from P55 (cheese pimiento) to P110 (chicken cutlet

CUBAO/ p.D2


CARAMELIZED Spam with egg on rice, sirloin *tapa* with egg, corned beef fried rice with egg and orange shake

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0250, Series of 2002.

Cubao restaurant serves food for the heart

INTERIORS of CaféBola

From page D1

with mozzarella); the pastas from P80 (spaghetti with garlic, basil and olive oil) to P155 (penne in tomato cream with Italian sausage). The breakfast dishes range from P85 (corned beef fried rice with an egg) to P145 (sirloin *tapa* with an egg on rice). Reasonable, and undeniably good.

Desserts include Classic Tiramisu, Bola Fruit Salad with Tapioca, Kesong Puti Cheesecake with Preserves, the Bola Flan, Apple Crumble with Double Cream, Cinnamon Banana Bread Pudding (P45-75).

"Cool Comfort Food," Margarita calls all this. She has been the most active member of a cooking family—her brother bakes the breads, other family members have specialties—and the first one in the profession. The new special on the board menu, Margarita's Cream Paprika Chicken with buttered rice, was one of the first things she cooked for the family, and they clamored to have it back.

She grew up in Cubao, living in her grandparents' J. Amado and Ester Araneta's White House. Young as she is, she remembers the transformation of the 35-hectare property into today's Cubao. On the café walls are framed black-and-white photos of the construction of the Coliseum. In her memory ring names of early eateries like Cup and Saucer and Aristocrat.

CaféBola has bright colors (mostly red) and a saucy ambiance—and simple but well-designed dishes (some marked "good for the heart"), with speedy and excellent service by a few black-clad waiters.

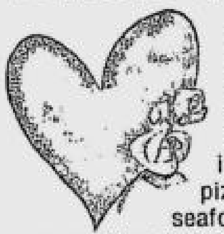
What are good for the heart? The pastas with tomato sauce-based sauces (lycopene, remember?), the Bola Chef's Salad, the Penne in Garlic Olive Oil with Tuna and Summer Vegetables, and the Seafood-Ball sandwich.

Be kind to your heart, then, on Valentine's Day, and to your taste buds and your budget as well at CaféBola.

CINNAMON banana bread pudding, espresso and chocolate cake

Where to go for romantic Valentine's Day dinners

DINING-OUT



GARIBALDI, a newly opened Italian restaurant, is offering a special set menu this Valentine's Day. The menu includes a choice of chef appetizer sampler or seafood salad, a combination of three pastas with lobster and vegetables in red wine sauce or all meat mix grill, and a choice of *pandoro al cioccolato* or *panettone al limone*, and for the *spizzeto aperitivo*—white wine and Campari Aperitif. Garibaldi is on Metropolitan Avenue in Makati. It offers pizza, pasta, meat, seafood, coffee, wines, all prepared the Italian way. It also serves breakfast featuring Filipino and Continental dishes. Garibaldi also accepts caterings for small private parties and business meetings. Call 895-5532.

ANTONELLI'S Cafe Ristorante prepares a special Valentine's menu. For lunch, a Valentine's Day Buffet consists of Pork Loin with Apple-Berry Sauce, Beef Payard with Red Wine Sauce, Seafood Stew with Almonds, Pasta/Pizza Bar, assortment of cakes and pastries and English Trifle. The special five-course dinner menu includes appetizer, soup or salad, sorbet, entree and dessert. Call 816-6853 or 844-0637/0639. Antonelli's Cafe Ristorante is at G/F Sarmiento Condominium, 177 Yakal St., Makati City.

KIMPURA Japanese Restaurant entices couples to its Koi Bito (sweetheart) platter. This plateful of mouthwatering goodies includes all-time favorites like futomaki, salmon sashimi, tuna sashimi, *ebi* sushi and *tamago* sushi. Koi Bito platter is available during lunch and dinner and is good until Feb. 17. Kimpura is at 2/L Glorietta 2, Makati, and Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan.

MEXICALI offers two new classic specialties, Pescado à la Veracruzana and Bistec à la Veracruzana, from the traditional recipes of Veracruz, Mexico in the festive Valentine celebration at Manila's best Mexican restaurant chain.

Pescado à la Veracruzana is a dish of oven-roasted fillet of Lapu Lapu in a sauce of Italian plum tomato, popularly known as the "love apple," spiced with green olives, capers, oregano and green chili. The love apple sauce will also garnish Bistec à la Veracruzana grilled steak. The Valentine specialties are priced at P200/order with a free dessert. Call Mexicali Glorietta at 894-0987, SM Megamall 635-6079 or Robinson s Place Manila 400-6869.

TOQUE restaurant on Morato, QC features a delightful dinner on Feb. 14. For appetizer, it offers Salad of Prawns with Mesclun Greens in Cocktail Sauce and Turmeric Vinaigrette.

Diners can choose from entrées of Grilled New Zealand Rib Eye with Chargrilled Vegetables and Potato Cake in Bordelaise Sauce; Grilled Australian Lamb Chops Served with Green Vegetables and Fried Polenta in Victorian Mint Sauce; and Pan-seared Seabass with Mushroom Compote and Leeks in Port Cream Sauce.

Guests can also enjoy a glass of wine, Strawberry Cream Cake for dessert and coffee or tea.

THE HERITAGE HOTEL MANILA'S Restaurant Riviera invites diners on Feb. 13 and 14 to relish your favorite barbecued specialties or sample its international buffet. Salads and desserts complete your meal. Buffet prices are inclusive of one round of Passion Potion (a special Valentine drink). At the Cakeshop, Valentine cakes and chocolates are offered for sale Feb. 8-15. Call 854-8888.

MANDARIN ORIENTAL'S executive chef Norbert Gandler and executive sous chef Humphrey Navarro has prepared an eight-course Valentine dinner at The Tivoli, the hotel's signature restaurant. Families may equally indulge in sumptuous feasts available at The Brasserie and Tin Hau. The Brasserie offers a Valentine's Day buffet, which comes with a souvenir gift.

At Tin Hau, a special set dinner menu for two persons is available.

Call 750-8888.

NEW WORLD RENAISSANCE HOTEL'S Bocarinos offers Mediterranean cuisine in a lunch buffet on Feb. 11-14. For dinner on Feb. 11-14, a Chef's Table Menu awaits lovers. The Coffee Shop will offer an international fare in its lunch and dinner buffets on Feb. 11-17. Frozen Margarita and Fruit Bellini are the Lobby Lounge's love potions on Feb. 14 from 7 p.m.-11 p.m. Call 811-6888.

THE PENINSULA MANILA offers a dinner buffet spread at The Lobby. A lounge bar set up will be done at the Gallery for cozy gatherings. The Pen's Old Manila offers a three-course set lunch menu on Feb. 14 and 15, which comes with a long-stemmed rose and a box of chocolates; have a seven-course set dinner menu which comes with a complimentary glass of Moet & Chandon champagne, a long-stemmed rose and a box of chocolates. Nielsen's offers a dinner buffet. While at Mi Place, savor a set lunch menu or a Valentine set dinner menu, which comes with a box of chocolates. A set dinner menu is also available at The Conservatory on Feb. 14, 7-10 p.m.

RICHMONDE HOTEL features a set dinner menu from 7-11 p.m. Toast to the occasion with a glass of red or white wine. Ladies also get a heart-shaped chocolate cake as token. Call 638-7777.

THE PAN PACIFIC MANILA offers a Valentine dinner on Feb. 14 at the 21/F Pacific Lounge. Call 536-0788 local 3921 or 3922.

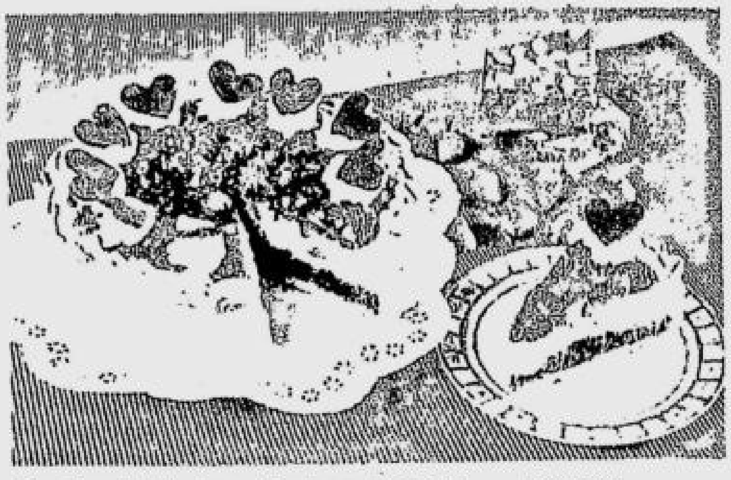
EDSA SHANGRI-LA'S Summer Palace offers a Cantonese fare on Feb. 13 and 14. Special set menus include Roast Suckling Pig, Shark's Fin Soup, Scallops, Abalones and Prawns. Also try the Valentine's buffet of Asian and Continental dishes such as baked lapu-lapu, roast chicken in cranberry sauce, beef mignon with wasabi gravy, steamed blue crab, broiled lamb chops, assorted salads and desserts. At Inaho Tei, delight in Shanshokuju, Sukiyaki, Teppan Seafood and Beefsteak and Shangri-La Deluxe set menus in addition to à la carte favorites. Call 633-8888 local 2738 or 2739.

HOLIDAY INN MANILA offers an array of Valentine goodies like Chocolate Chips, Mocca and Nuts, Palmeras, Oatmeal, Sweet Lips Strawberry, Lover's Brownie Delight, Strawberry Roll, Chocolate Cup in Heart Cake and chocolate pralines. Available daily 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Call 526-1212 local 2326.

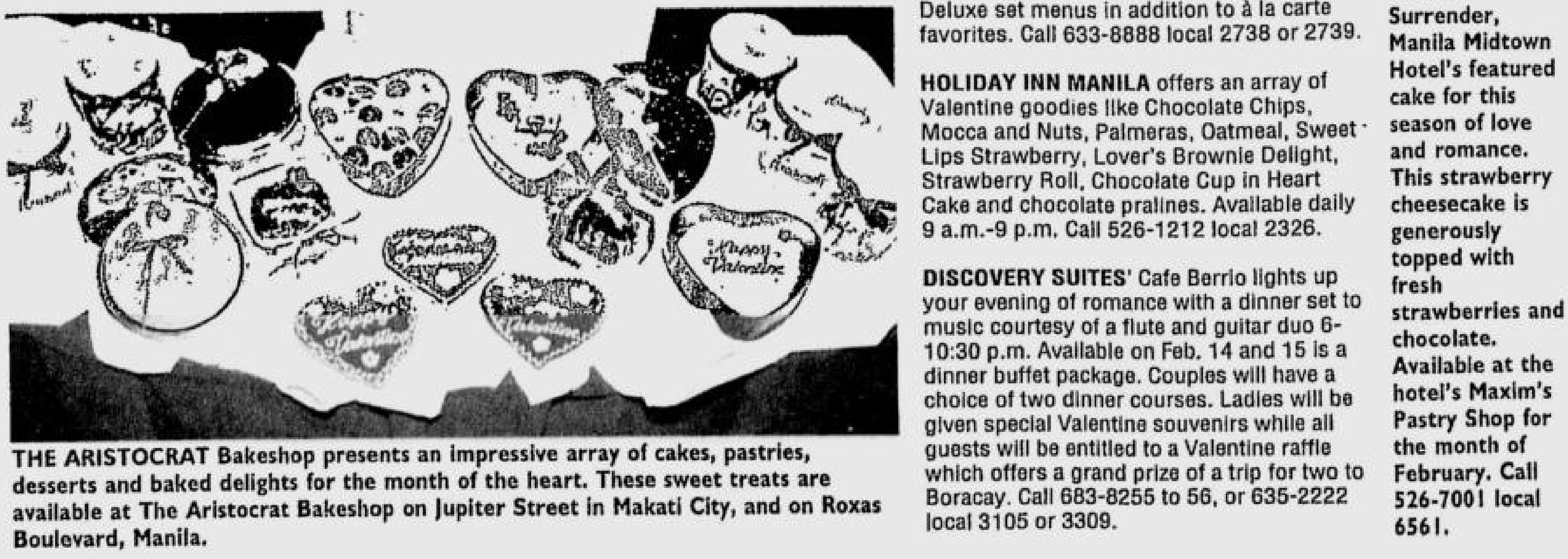
DISCOVERY SUITES' Cafe Berrio lights up your evening of romance with a dinner set to music courtesy of a flute and guitar duo 6-10:30 p.m. Available on Feb. 14 and 15 is a dinner buffet package. Couples will have a choice of two dinner courses. Ladies will be given special Valentine souvenirs while all guests will be entitled to a Valentine raffle which offers a grand prize of a trip for two to Boracay. Call 683-8255 to 56, or 635-2222 local 3105 or 3309.

ENJOY Valentine dining Feb.9-15 at Area Cafe with a choice of five menu combinations at a special promo price of P450 for two persons (plus 10-percent service charge). The Valentine menu combos are available at all Area Cafe branches: SM Megamall, Robinsons Galleria, Power Plant Mall and Alabang Town Center. Meal packages include a side salad, a glass of wine and chocolate-covered almond-stuffed dates. Shown above is the Valentine Menu 3 consisting of Marino Panini, tuna and caper salad, garlic oil, tomato and lettuce on Pane Arabo, and Ragu Pasta, a dish of meat sauce from Emilia-Romagna in Italy.

CRAVINGS is offering a Valentine's Day menu featuring Claypot Chicken, marinated in oyster sauce and ginger and topped with *chorizo* and mushrooms. Available at Cravings Cafe in Festival Mall, Greenbelt, Asturias Street and Robinsons Galleria.



SWEET SURRENDER Give in to the luscious layers of chocolate, cheese and strawberries of Sweet Surrender, Manila Midtown Hotel's featured cake for this season of love and romance. This strawberry cheesecake is generously topped with fresh strawberries and chocolate. Available at the hotel's Maxim's Pastry Shop for the month of February. Call 526-7001 local 6561.



THE ARISTOCRAT Bakeshop presents an impressive array of cakes, pastries, desserts and baked delights for the month of the heart. These sweet treats are available at The Aristocrat Bakeshop on Jupiter Street in Makati City, and on Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

Nights of romance and music

ISLAND Cove Resort and Leisure Park, the nearest resort destination south of Manila, offers an array of promos and events for the month of February.

Couples will delight at the P2,200 package available on weekdays and P2,600 on weekends. Package includes room, breakfast for two, welcome drinks and use of several resort facilities. Room-only rate is available on weekdays at P1,800.

On Feb. 13, 14 and 15, couples will be pampered with "perks" to enhance their romantic mood. For P2,300, "lovebirds" get an overnight stay in a superior room, welcome drinks, breakfast in bed, use of the Oceania pool, exclusive use of Hotel pool and jacuzzi, free round of mini golf, free use of gym facilities for an hour, 25-percent discount on massage service plus goodnight sweets and red wine as a Valentine gift from Island Cove. For those on a budget, a no-frills room-only rate is available for P1,500.

Lovers can have their dream date on Feb. 14, amid a romantic garden setting at Marimar. A special set dinner menu served with red wine and souvenir token will be available for P395 per head.

Enjoy a night of music and laughter with Marissa Sanchez and Fat Session during their special Valentine show called "Weight & See..." on Feb. 15 at the Purple Ostrich Bar, Cafe, Disco and Concert Hall. Ticket prices are at P1,200 for dinner, drinks and show at VIP area; P800 for dinner and show; and P450 for show only. Call 810-3732/3740/5351/3718/3764 or (046) 434-0210 or or visit www.islandcove.phil.com.

Toonville's odd couples kiss and tell

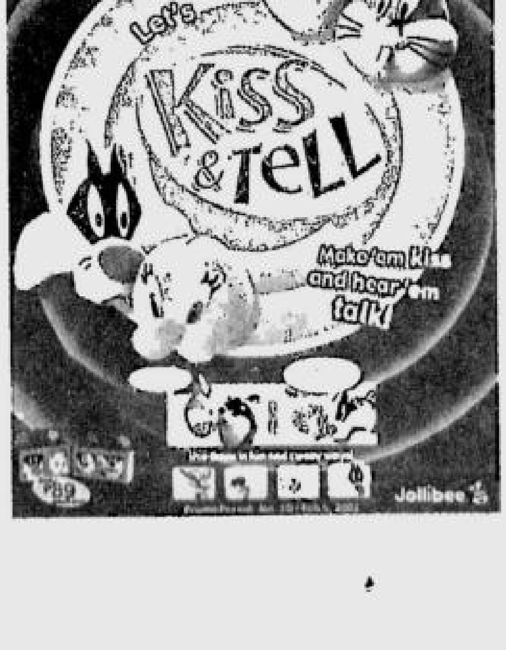
THERE'S more than one reason to "Bee Happy" this February as Jollibee features some of Toonville's famous odd couples in Jollibee's Kiss & Tell. Here's your chance to cuddle and kiss four delightful Looney Tunes plush toys. Just choose from these two delightful combinations.

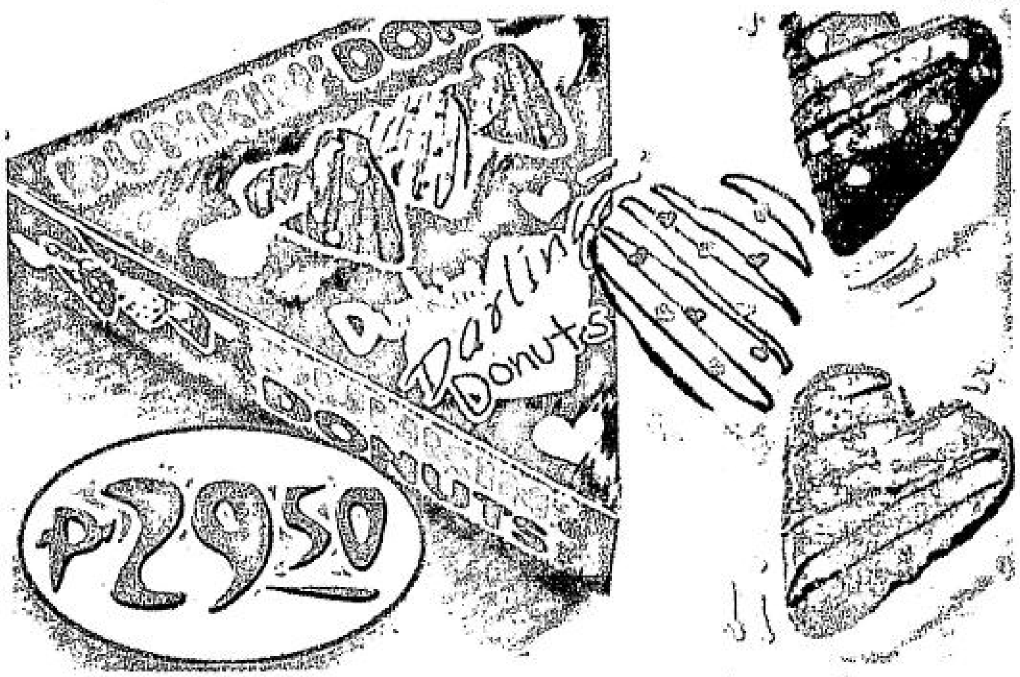
First is a face-off between Bugs Bunny and Taz. Hear Bugs Bunny's "What's up, Doc?" by just pressing Taz's nose to Bug's mouth.

Then there's also the love-hate chasing duo of Sylvester and Tweety, whose "I tawt I taw a puddy tat. I did tee a puddy tat!' can be heard by simply pressing the former's nose to the latter's beak.

For P89, with a minimum P75 food purchase, you can avail of these toys which come in sets of two. These are powered by built-in batteries and can be used as stuff toys or key chains.

So collect all four Looney Tunes characters and experience the happiness that can only come with every Langhap Sarap meal at Jollibee.





Heart-shaped treats for your loved ones

DUNKIN' Donuts, Pasalubong Ng Bayan, celebrates the season of love with Dunkin' Darling Donuts. Three heart-shaped donuts, half-dipped in chocolate, come in a Valentine-inspired box for only P29.50.

This treat is coated with chocolate frosting—red, white chocolate, and topped with heart and rainbow sprinkles.

So visit any of the participating Dunkin' Donuts outlets nationwide until Feb. 18, and bring home for your darlings an item that will tell them just how much you love them.

SM Foundation

Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services
Department of Social Welfare and Development

Share Your Extras

Spare some time to sort out your excess clothes, shoes and house ware, and share these with the less fortunate. These "extras" will go a long way in helping families in the poorest municipalities in the Philippines!

Each donation will entitle you to a cash coupon from the SM Homeworld. Visit our donation booth at the SM Supermalls from **February 7 to March 8, 2002**

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EXTENDED!!!
Free Admiral Laundry Teledryer 70
Imported! Worth ₱3,000

₱27,825 Washer
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SALE
AAV 1200 AKW ₱26,500
LNC 6760 A71 / A77 ₱26,000

Yes! ADMIRAL is going wild this holiday season. Showering you with an Imported Admiral Laundry Teledryer 70 for every purchase of an Admiral 10.1 kg.(3.3cu.ft.)WASHER or 10.1kg.(7cu.ft.)DRYER. Not only is the feature of Admiral 10.1 kg. washer bigger in tub-size capacity than brand "X", in fact it is 9% more than brand "X's 10.5 kg. washer. Promo Period: EXTENDED up to February 14, 2002

Hurry get this offer now!!!
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CONPINCO MARKETING - TEL #925-5213/925-5215.17
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Per DTI NCR Permit No. 1945 series of 2001
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Brownies Unlimited

FEBRUARY SPECIAL

Valentine Fudge Cake
P120 only
*Available From Feb. 12-15, 2002

6pcs. pre-packed assorted brownies
P58 only

For inquiries on bulk orders, please call 882-0179 / 882-0187 or 882-0175

SM Supermalls, Robinson's Galleria, SM Makati Supermarket, SM Harrison Dept. Store, Shangri-la Plaza, Festival Supermall, Glorietta, SM Cubao Dept. Store, Alabang Town Center, Robinson's Place, SM Makati Dept. Store.

Julius Maggi Kitchen
NOW COOKING

Rice! Around the World

Delicious rice dishes! In a variety of international ways. From Indonesian Fried Rice to Prawn Rice Cake and Italian risotto. Chef Jeff Catral from the Center for Culinary Arts shows you there is so much more to rice than just boiled and steamed. For added measure, Ms. Rose Dapul gives tips on food sanitation and storage.
Feb. 12, 14, 16, 19, 21. All classes begin at 2 pm at the Julius Maggi Kitchen, Ground Floor, Nestlé Center, 31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City. For reservations, please call 726-9232 or 726-1016. All sessions are for two hours.

Special of the Month: Baking with Heny Sison
Feb. 9: Brownies and Bars
Feb. 23: Basic Cakes and Icings for Beginners
Feb. 26: Cheese Cake Gallery
For reservations on Heny Sison's classes, please call 726-5316.

JULIUS MAGGI KITCHEN. Cooking up a lifestyle.

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For more information, please call 898-0061 (Mondays to Fridays, 8am - 6pm)

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Good Food, Good Life

PDI

Hair-Free Underarms @ 30% OFF!

LaserLight* Hair Removal gives you the confidence to bare your underarms at a

BIG 30% DISCOUNT:

- the resulting soft, smooth skin looks and feels much better than even the "closest shave" you get from shaving
- efficiently eliminates unwanted hair in as quick as 5 minutes
- it is the only treatment that is **FDA-approved for permanent hair reduction**

Soon your underarms will be free from unsightly hair - forever! **Hurry! Promo is on from February 7 - 12, 2002 only!**
Call Facial Care Centre NOW for LaserLight.

*LaserLight is suitable for any unwanted hair, anywhere on your body.

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ALL CENTERS ARE NOW OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK.

Per DTI NCR Permit #0262 Series of 2002

MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SAT. (8 AM - 5 P.M) / SUN. (10 AM - 3 PM)

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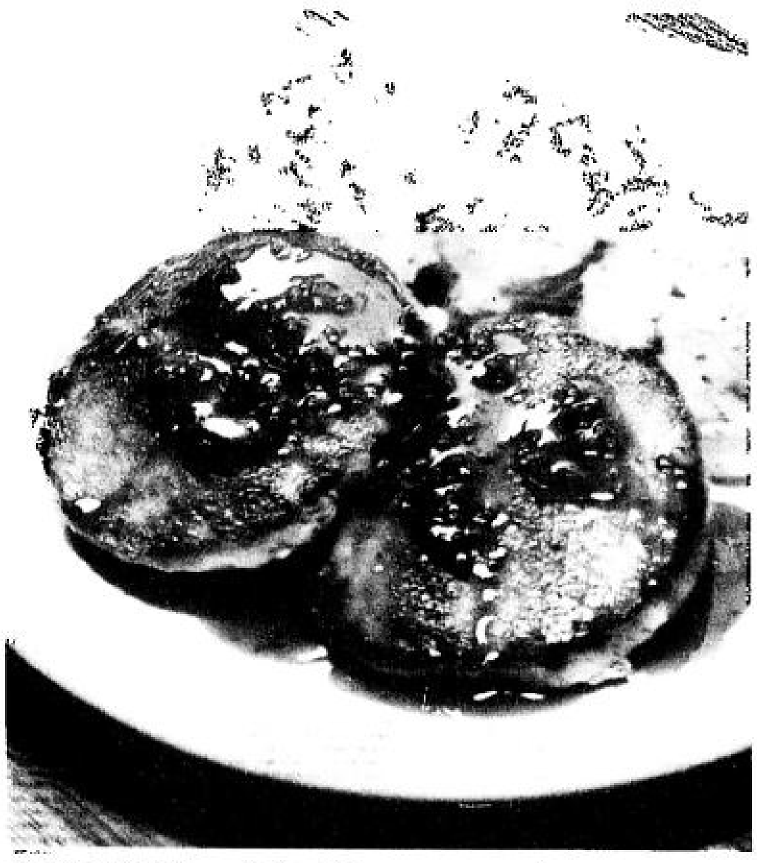


ADELAIDE Pork

Tummy-filling dishes at pocket-friendly prices

WHAT better way to welcome the new year than by relishing the best Auss'm dishes without hurting your pockets? Outback Restaurant gives you an exciting menu of choices available from P185 and up in its "Down Under Dindin."

"These dishes were especially created to offer our guests middle-priced, great-tasting dishes," Outback operating partner Ed de los Reyes says.

Highlighting this list is the Outback Special for only P345. Think juicy center cut sirloin served with fresh veggies and garlic mashed potatoes. "The Outback Special is one of the steaks that popularized Outback Restaurant in the United States. Now we're offering a smaller portion of this famous steak dish at a price that's within the reach of more people," De los Reyes says.

Latest additions to the "Down Under Dindin" choices also include the Adelaide Pork and Toowoomba Pasta.

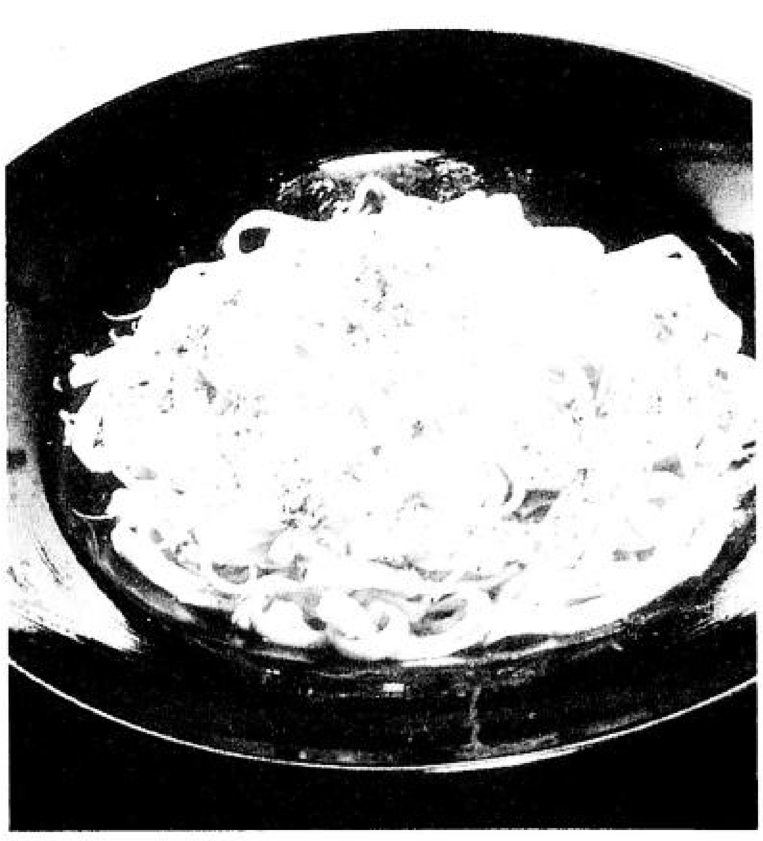
The Adelaide Pork is a sumptuous dish of pork tenderloin that's seasoned and seared to perfection. Served with the restaurant's special honey-balsamic glaze and roasted garlic mashed potatoes, it's a certified Bonzer treat at P295.

The Toowoomba Pasta, on the other hand, is made up of flavorful fettuccine Alfredo mixed with seasoned shrimp, mushrooms and Parmesan cheese.

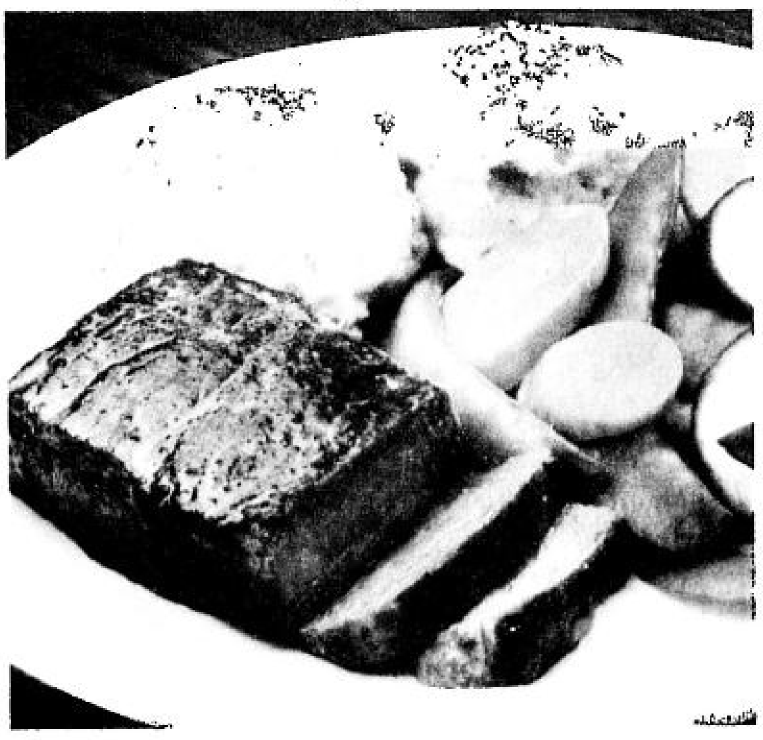
De los Reyes says guests usually order these new selections with old-time Outback favorites, such as the Botany Bay Fish O' the Day, a 7-oz fresh catch that's lightly seasoned and grilled and served with fresh veggies; Kookaburra Fingers (breaded and deep-fried to a golden brown and served with spicy ranch dressing); and Alice Springs Chicken (grilled chicken breast smothered with mushrooms and bacon, melted Monterey Jack and cheddar cheeses with honey mustard sauce and served with Aussie chips).

"They enjoy the diversity and affordability of the Down Under Dindin," he says.

Aside from the "Down Under Dindin" dishes, Outback also offers its local beers at pocket-friendly prices. They're available at P30 every day of the week, all day long. Outback Restaurant's "Down Under Dindin" is available at its branches at Glorietta 4, Makati; Libis, QC; and Alabang Town Center.



TOOWOOMBA Pasta



OUTBACK Special